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BEIJING YOUTH DAILY



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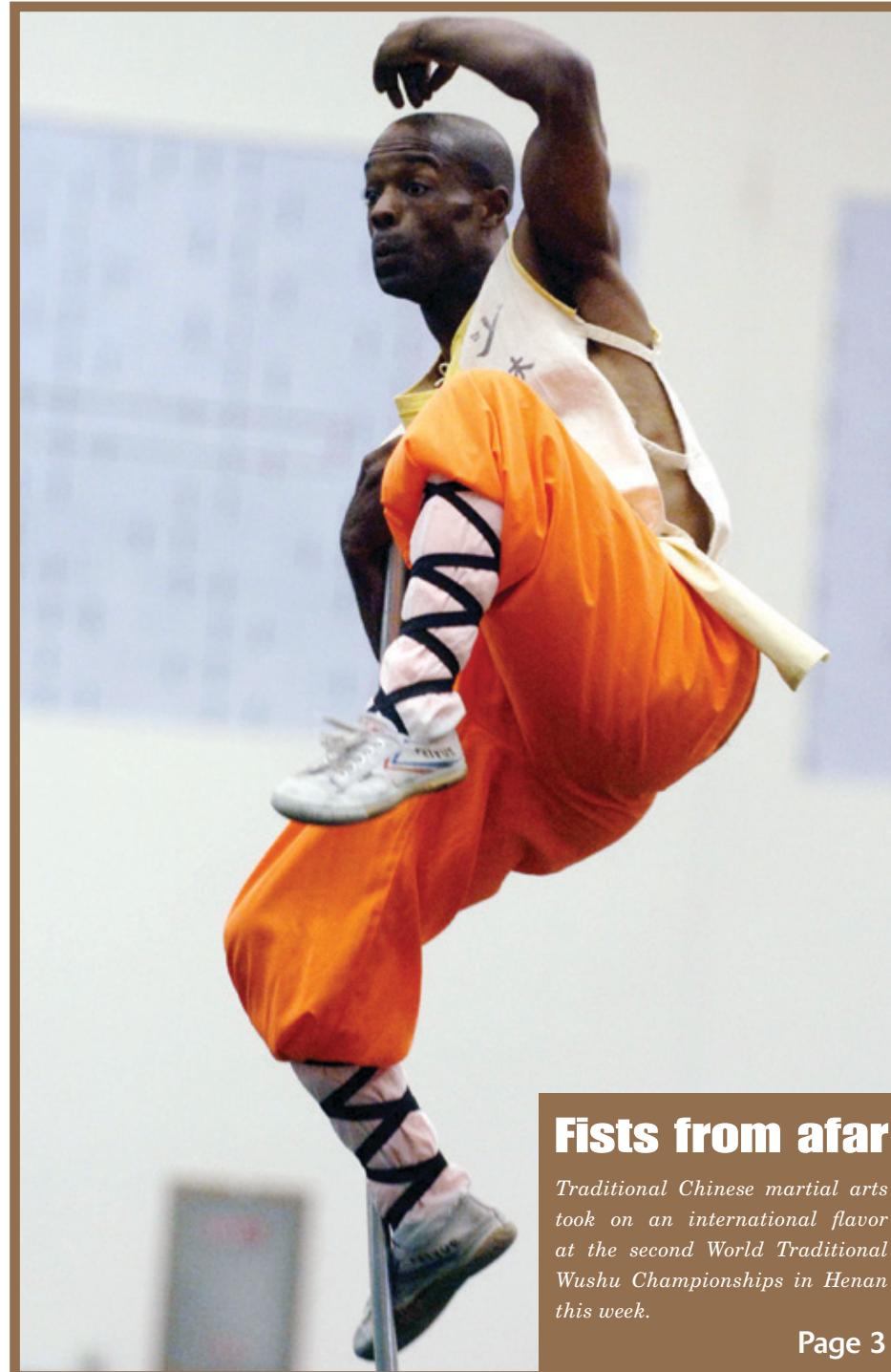


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Doha Asian Games torch to tour capital Sunday

By Jiang Xubo

The torch for the Doha Asian Games will arrive in Beijing this Sunday and be carried in relay on a tour of the capital.

The torch will begin its 27 kilometer journey around Beijing at two o'clock in the afternoon in Tiananmen Square, passing by the National Theater, the Drum Tower, the Lama Temple, and the former Asian Games village, before reaching its destination, the Temple of Heaven. In all, 100 torch bearers will take part in the relay, which is expected to end at five o'clock in the afternoon.

Hein Verbruggen, International Olympic Committee coordinator for Beijing Olympic Games, has been invited to carry the torch as the second bearer. Liu Ailing, a former member of the Chinese women's football team, will also be carrying the flame. "I am so excited that I will be a torch bearer, but I don't know when my turn is," said Liu.

The torch began its international tour in Doha, capital of Qatar and host city of the games, on October 9, and will be paraded in 15 countries and regions over two months, including China before returning to Doha on December 1.

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Reign of terror in Shunyi comes to an end

By Annie Wei

Thirty-four members of a bloodthirsty mafia gang who led a 10-year terror campaign in Shunyi have been jailed.

The gang members were sentenced to between 18 months and 20 years each at Beijing's Supreme Court this week for a spate of 53 crimes that included slicing off a victim's ear, numerous stabbings, bribing policemen, possessing firearms and rigging local elections.

Gang leader Hu Yadong, was convicted of 13 crimes, jailed for 20 years and fined 2.62 million yuan. His brother, Hu Yafeng was convicted of 10 crimes, jailed for 19 years and also fined 2.62 million yuan. The court also sentenced a

lawyer and a government employee, both members of the gang.

Hu Yadong was also charged with bribing five policemen who turned a blind eye to his crimes in return for cash. A separate investigation has been launched into the conduct of the policemen.

It is believed to be the first time a mafia gang has been jailed in Beijing since 1949.

Stabbing and ear slicing and the mafia gang is formed

Hu Yadong's gang committed most of their crimes in Shunyi district's Beixiaoying town. Like any new part of Beijing, it is home to numerous small factories and private businesses that became prey for the gang.

The group formed 10 years

ago when Hu was running a mechanics in Shunyi town. He ordered his staff to beat and stab a client, Zhang Guoli, who had stood up to Hu when he tried to rip him off. Hu's men stabbed Zhang in the hip and sliced off half of his right ear.

Police protection

Hu avoided being punished for the attack after bribing two policemen. Hu also bribed a lawyer, Zhang Qiuwen and got him to blackmail one of his clients for 80,000 yuan in 2003.

With protection from the police, Hu's group started illegally mining in villages in Beixiaoying town in April 2004.

Residents still too scared to speak out

Crack teams of plain-clothes cops to combat street crime

By Jiang Xubo

A team of around 1,200 plain clothed police officers will carry out round-the-clock patrols this week to combat street crimes including robbery, theft, prostitution and drug dealing.

The officers will be divided into units of five and will be equipped with radios and weapons, including firearms. Patrols will be carried out 24-hours-a-day in crowded public areas including shopping malls, stations, hospitals and residential communities.

The units will also team up with uniformed police via radio in case of an emergency.

The Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau announced the operation earlier this week.

"This special team will be an essential supplement to the city's existing police force," said Ma Xichu, deputy director of the bureau's Criminal Police Unit. "It'll help to reduce street crime as offenders won't be able to identify plainclothes officers."

All 1,200 police officers have been selected from the city's police force. Most are male officers, under the age of 40 who have at least three years experience and are trained in unarmed combat skills.

"They will definitely make me feel safer," said Hu Yinghua, an editor from China Tobacco, "but at the same time, the idea that someone might be spying on me makes me a bit uneasy."

The officers are required to carry their credentials when they are on duty, in case they have to prove their identity.



Chinese girls win first team gold

The Chinese women's team won gold medals in the team final at the Artistic Gymnastics World Championships in Aarhus, Denmark Wednesday.

Xinhua Photo

Suicide on the subway

By Gan Tian

A man died after throwing himself in front of a subway train in Chongwenmen Station at around 2:30pm on Wednesday, blocking the loop line for nearly 50 minutes.

According to a shocked eyewitness the man simply jumped in front of the train.

"When the train came into the station, a middle-aged man suddenly jumped onto the track," said Mrs Zhang, who was waiting in the station at the time. "The train stopped at once, but the man was still pulled under the train's wheels. There was blood, flesh and bones everywhere. People

were in shock."

Subway staff immediately cut off the power. Police arrived on the scene and immediately evacuated passengers on the platform and closed the station. At around 4pm, security guards carried the man's body out from the subway station and into a waiting ambulance. An emergency doctor said the man had been hit on the head, his legs and arms had been crushed and his face was unrecognizable.

The loop line (Line 2) was closed for 50 minutes after the incident and passengers were required to take Line 1 instead.

Police say the man committed suicide but they do not know why.

Commuters get arsey over anorectal ads

By Tom Mackenzie

Graphic TV adverts about anorectal diseases have been banned from being broadcast on Beijing's buses - after complaints that they put passengers off their breakfasts.

The Beijing municipal bureau for radio, film and television announced the ruling after some passengers complained that the adverts "made them sick".

From this week, any anal related ads are banned from being shown between 7am and 9am to avoid ruining passengers' appetites.

Lei Wang, 72, who takes the bus every morning said, "I do find some of those adverts quite disgusting. You certainly wouldn't want to eat your breakfast with those images on the screen."

Mr Wang, who drives the number 43 bus, added, "It's right that they've banned these adverts because some of them are really revolting. They should show public information adverts instead. Commercials about anus diseases just shouldn't be shown on a bus."

Around 5,000 buses are equipped with mobile TV in Beijing, according to Beijing All Media and Culture Group, the only mobile TV operator approved by the State Administration for Radio and Television in the capital.

There are a further 11,000 screens in the city's taxis, government cars and on the light railway. Companies pay up to 500,000 yuan to have their adverts broadcast on Beijing's buses.

The bureau said the anorectal adverts would be replaced with promotional programs for the Olympics as well as news and entertainment programs.

Construction begins on urban rail lines

By Huang Daochen

Work has begun on the construction of two urban rail lines, the S6 and M6, through the eastern Tongzhou district, it was announced on Tuesday. Construction of the new Beijing East Railway Station is also set to begin.

The reconstruction of the transport system in Tongzhou is part of Beijing's '11th five-year plan'. The M6 line starts at Chaoyangmen in Chaoyang district and extends east along Hebin West Road to the administrative area of Tongzhou. The S6 line will act as a channel, connecting Shunyi, Yizhuang and Tongzhou.

Bus stations and bus lines will be rearranged accordingly at each station along the S6 and M6 lines. Parking spaces and taxi stops will also be taken into consideration.

Beijing currently has 114 km of track in operation, with the subway lines making up 54.15 km. By 2008, when Beijing is to host the Olympic Games, the length of the city's urban rail transport system is expected to reach 300 km.

Former head statistician implicated in Shanghai pensions scandal

By Qiu Jiaoning

The former head of China's National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Qiu Xiaohua, has been implicated in a Shanghai corruption scandal involving the illegal use of social security funds, NBS announced at a press conference on Thursday.

Qiu was sacked last week without explanation.

Li Xiaochao, a spokesperson for the NBS, said, "During investigations into the Shanghai social security fund scandal, Qiu was found to be involved in severe violations of Party discipline. The Central Commission of Discipline Inspection is now conducting an investigation into that involvement."

Qiu is one of the highest

level officials to be implicated in the Shanghai scandal, which saw billions drained from the city's 10 billion yuan social security fund and used for illegal loans and investments.

Last month, Chen Liangyu, Shanghai Communist Party chief was sacked and is now the subject of an investigation. More than 100 central gov-

ernment anti-corruption investigators have been sent to Shanghai to take part in a probe into the scandal.

Qiu was removed from his post after serving just seven months. He has been replaced by Xie Fuzhan, previously the deputy director of the State Council's Development Research Center.

City to host 'sound of the 21st century'

By He Jianwei

An opening ceremony and gala concert for the Beijing International Electroacoustic Music Festival (Musicacoustica 2006), will be held next Monday in the city's China Millennium Monument, beginning a week-long feast of electro-acoustic music.

Composers, scholars and performing artists from more than 30 countries will be in Beijing for Musicacoustica 2006. The event aims to promote electro-acoustic music - a pioneering form of modern music which represents "the sound of 21st century", according to Wu Bin from the organizing committee.

The annual meeting of the Electroacoustic Music Foundation will be held during the festival, the first time they have met in China.

Everybody was Kungfu fighting in Henan

By He Jianwei

More than 2,000 martial artists from 78 countries and regions have been competing this week at the second World Traditional Wushu Championships. The championships, held in Zhengzhou, capital of Henan Province, ended yesterday.

The event featured martial arts drills by students of Shaolin styles from China and overseas.

Wushu - the Chinese word for martial arts - are likely to feature as a 'specially set' sport at the Beijing Olympic Games, according to Chen Guorong, vice chairman of the Chinese Wushu Association.

Brief news

Small drop in growth

China's gross domestic product grew by 10.7 percent in the first three quarters of this year, down 0.2 percentage points from the first half-year, the National Bureau of Statistics announced this Thursday.

New English name for Olympic mascots

The English name of the five mascots of Beijing Olympic Games has been changed from 'Friendlies' to 'Fuwa' this week, the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games announced this week.

More spent on housing

Urban residents in the capital have spent an average 1,200 yuan (US\$ 152) on buying or building houses in the first nine months of this year, up over 36 percent on that of the same period of last year, according to the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Statistics.

New international tourism destinations

Argentina, Venezuela, Uganda, Bangladesh, and Andorra have been added to the list of tourism destination countries for Chinese citizens, the China National Tourism Administration announced this week.

(By Jiang Xubo)

Posthumous award for former first lady

By Huang Daohen

Wang Guangmei, widow of former president Liu Shaoqi, has been posthumously honored with a special personal achievement award for her work combating poverty. Madame Wang died last Friday, aged 85.

The former first lady, who died of heart and kidney failure at a Beijing military hospital, was one of 19 nominees announced last month for the second China Poverty Eradication Awards. The awards are given biannually to individuals or organizations who have made significant contributions to poverty alleviation.

Wang and her husband suffered persecution during the Cultural Revolution in the 1960s, and she spent more than 12 years in prison. After her release, Madame Wang dedicated her life to poverty alleviation. In

1996, she auctioned a private antique collection left to her by her mother, raising 566,000 yuan (US\$70,750). She used the money to help impoverished mothers, founding 'Project Happiness', which aimed to improve the situation of poor mothers nationwide.

In the 11 years since the initiative began, nearly 700,000 poor people from 154,000 households have benefited from the project's 389 programs around the country.

Madame Wang was the first woman in China to gain a master's degree in atomic physics, granted to her by Fu Jen Catholic University in her native Beijing in 1945.

A skilled linguist, speaking English, French and Russian, Wang Guangmei first worked as an interpreter in military affairs before devoting herself to the Communist revolution.



Wang Guangmei

CFP Photo

Ticket to fly a thing of the past

By Qiu Jiaoning

The China Air Transport Association (CATA) is planning to phase out the use of paper air tickets, and since Monday has begun replacing them with e-tickets, in line with an International Air Transport Association (IATA) requirement that its 261 member airlines abandon paper tickets by the end of 2007.

CATA said in a statement that electronic air tickets will be in general use in China by

the end of this year. Airlines and agencies began offering domestic e-tickets for air passengers on Monday. During a transitional period, both paper tickets and electronic tickets will be available. However, CATA figures suggest that the current stock of paper tickets will be used up within a month.

Li Qi, from the security technology center of the General Administration of Civil Aviation (CAAC), said that e-tickets will

reduce airlines' operating costs. Costs using e-tickets are about a tenth of those for paper air tickets, meaning airlines could save around 20 yuan per ticket once they make the change.

Air passengers can book e-tickets online or by phone, pay for them using online banking, and check in with a ticket number and passport when taking their flight. As many passengers feel insecure about having no physical tickets, an invoice

service to provide a record of flight times and charges for e-tickets was introduced by the CAAC last April.

Although e-tickets can cut costs, paper tickets are still needed in some cases. Babies and disabled soldiers must continue to use them to enjoy discount travel, and cities that lack the necessary technology will still use the old system. Airline companies can continue to order and use paper tickets.

Lawyer goes online to defend mistresses' rights

By Han Manman

Mistresses are stock figures of hate for many contemporary Chinese, accused of home-wrecking and gold-digging and despised for immorality, but one Beijing lawyer has set up a website to inform them of rights and help them deal with some of the problems their status brings.

Zheng Baichun, the lawyer behind the initiative, says that mistresses are not the only ones to blame for extramarital affairs,

and the experiences of many deserve our sympathy. "Many women who become mistresses have been cheated or coerced by the man, who will use a position of authority or material inducements to entice often vulnerable women. Many have little choice but to agree to become mistresses."

Zheng said he became interested in the plight of mistresses, and later determined to help where he could, after he met a woman who took care of her can-

cer-stricken lover until he died. The man's family had refused to see him. "I am aware of several suicides where the victims were mistresses. Because no one helps to protect their rights and no one shows them sympathy, these women often feel death is the only way out."

A number of women have posted their stories to Zheng's website. Women seeking his assistance can also contact him through the site. To date, Zheng

has successfully helped four women with legal claims.

He has also met with opposition to his work. Some say mistresses deserve no legal protection because they wreck homes and are only in it for material gain. Other accuse Zheng of exploiting the issue and the women for publicity. Zheng stresses that he isn't encouraging mistresses to ruin families. He says they are a vulnerable group whose legal rights are often violated.

City's first courtyard auction flops

By Chen Shasha

Beijing's first ever courtyard auction held last week proved a dismal failure. None of the 17 courtyards were sold, although the event attracted around 50 Chinese and foreign bidders.

"Some of them seemed quite nice. But I am not sure whether they will be dismantled or not in the future," said Zhang Yuan, one of the participants. To become eligible to bid, the person first had to deposit 500,000 yuan with the auction company.

Most of the courtyards on the auction block were located in Dongcheng, Xicheng, Chongwen and Xuanwu districts. Some date back to the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), although their exact dates of construction could not be ascertained. The price tag for these old Beijing homes ranged from 1.8 to 40 million yuan. The steep price, however, was not what kept buyers away. Rather, it was the same worry that Zhang Yuan had.

Courtyards are recognized as protected cultural heritage sites, but their preservation is not a hundred percent guaranteed by the law. "Although the Old Beijing Protection Policy, issued in January 2005 prescribed a heritage protection area of 2,000 hectares within the Second Ring Road, the dismantling work still contin-



Courtyards can sell millions of yuan.

CFP Photo

ues," said Hua Xinmin, a French-Chinese lady who has been a hutong protection volunteer for years. "Some courtyards, even those around the Houhai area, with a significant historical value, cannot escape the dismantling."

Statistics issued by the Urban Planning Society of Beijing in

2005 showed that within the Second Ring Road, only 600 hutongs were declared protected areas. The other 900 remained vulnerable to destruction. "Many hutongs have changed these past few years," said Hua, "which no longer makes courtyards as charming as they used to be."

High-rise buildings and restaurants are quickly taking over the once traditional neighborhoods.

Another factor that had discouraged buyers was the problem with property rights. According to Hua, during the Cultural Revolution, the government took control of some of the courtyard

residences and parceled them out to various individuals. Based on information from Shun Chi, one of the largest housing companies in Beijing, nearly 52 percent of courtyards had five property rights owners, while some had as many as 20.

The issue of property rights also diminished the number of courtyards which qualified for the auction last week. Gui Liping, of Sheng Jia Auction Company, the organizer of the auction, said that around 70 courtyards were originally consigned for sale, but only 17 eventually qualified. "Some people showed interest in certain houses, but those courtyards didn't appear in the auction," she added. Of the 17 courtyards on auction, 10 were barred from being sold to foreigners, revealed Shi Chang'an, director of the Beijing Safety Bureau.

Their first attempt may have failed, but Gui Liping said that her auction house will continue to hold courtyard auctions. She hopes that these auctions will create a bigger market for courtyards, beyond the current 20 courtyards that are sold annually.

To Hua Xinmin, the auctions mean a different thing. She hopes that they will draw attention to the commercial value of courtyards, and eventually, the significance of keeping them around.

Invisible hands sap school meal quality

By Chu Meng

Last Friday noon, Luan Xingming, a student from Tuanjiehu Primary School threw away his lunch box provided by his school, and headed to the nearest KFC with three classmates. He is in the third grade, but already weighs 48 kilos. "It is disgusting, I can't eat it," the boy said. He is part of a burgeoning minority, in more ways than one.

"People are neglecting their duty and making the situation worse," Liu Limin, the director from the Beijing Municipal Commission of Education said on Monday. "Kickbacks between schools and the nutritious meal producers and delivery companies are eating into the money available for the meals. This is directly affecting student health."

Bad taste

According to commission's statistics, 350,000 students in the city order lunch through their schools. But over 30 percent of lunch boxes are returned to food delivery companies by students every day, untouched or barely so. Some of them even throw their lunch boxes away. Peixin Primary School and Beijing Huiwen Middle School conducted surveys showing that over 48 percent of students think the lunch boxes taste bad. "What we see are more

obese students, because they just aren't eating the 'healthy' lunch boxes in middle schools and primary schools," Liu said.

At present, the commission sets these meal prices. There are three levels: five yuan, 5.5 yuan and six yuan depending on the contract the schools signs with its supplier.

Xiao Yanping from an investigation panel from the commission calculated the cost of the kickbacks: "Most schools ask for five to 10 percent of so-called management fees from the delivery companies as a sweetener for choosing them. These are the kickbacks."

She took a six yuan lunch box for example. The production cost is about two yuan. Including one yuan profit, the lunch coming into the hands of a student is worth only three yuan. If schools ask for 10 percent kickback, it can only be deducted from the other three yuan in student's mouth. "What kind of healthy, nutritious and delicious meal can be produced for only 2.7 yuan?" she said.

Liu Limin said "Our first core task now is to eradicate the kickbacks. Municipal government will play a more important role to back school with nutritious meal allowances. Let students have reduced-price meals."



Graft threatens meal quality.
Photo provided by ISB

International experiences

Compared with schools in Britain, France and America – all of whom have had on-site nutritious meals for more than 70 years – Chinese schools have a lot of room to improve.

Fan Zhihong, a professor from School of Food and Nutrition from China Agricultural University said, "Through various policies adopted in these countries, all the three governments are playing the role of supporter and supervisor. They frame detailed nutrition plans, draft laws and regulations to ensure the safety of food resources and delivery procedures. They also establish transparent systems between schools and companies in order to provide high-quality reduced-price nutritious meals for kids."

More like social welfare, the National Nutritious Food Association of America launched a

Campus Lunch Box Plan. According to the plan, the Federal government made about US\$ 21 billion available in allowances to schools to support the plan each year. Every day, 26 million students in public schools, non-profit private schools and community institutes of children's welfare can eat free or reduced-price lunches. The association is under direct supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture.

And there are other things parents and schools can do to help kids have access to healthier meals. Tom Hawkins, a student accommodation manager at The International School of Beijing (ISB) shared some of his experience of health promotion work in schools.

"We ask children to attend a School Nutrition Action Group, which allows children, staff and caterers to work together to provide healthy interesting meals that pupils want. We offer more healthy foods and beverages at the canteen, letting them decide what to eat. We put more tomato, cucumber, carrot or celery sticks, salad or sandwiches, telling them to add to their rice," Tom said.

Yu Jun, whose son is in the second grade in that school said, "I got a copy of the menu at my son's school canteen and

we sat down and planned some lunch options for him, as well as working out the cost so that he was also confident about having enough money."

Future development

The country's first ever Chinese Student Nutritious Meal Symposium was just held by the National Commission of Education after the National Day Holiday in Shanghai. It comes a whole eight years after the central government launched the student nutritious meal program in primary and middle schools nationwide. Experts said it was a milestone that could potentially bring a new era of nutrition for Chinese students, because it was the first time the commission had decided to put the program to the top of their agenda.

Director of the Beijing Municipal Commission of Education Liu Limin said health, education and nutrition support enhance each other. He said, "The idea of Health-Promoting Schools will soon be introduced to every school. Schools are ideal settings for nutrition programs and services, because nutrition and education are closely linked, and because dietary, hygienic and exercise habits that affect nutritional status are formed during the school-age years."

China may enter space tourism race



China has a long way to go before starting space tourism.

CFP Photo

Beijing, October 13 (Reuters / CNN) – China may one day offer trips into space for tourists, a senior official said on Thursday, outlining the country's plans to launch more rockets, explore the moon, and even help farmers by using satellite transmissions.

Sun Laiyan, head of the China National Space Administration, also defended the cost of the space program, saying Beijing spent far

less than the United States, it benefited ordinary people, and was anyway a matter of national pride.

In 2003, China became only the third country – after the United States and the former Soviet Union – to launch a man into space aboard its own rocket. In October 2005, it sent two men into orbit and plans a space walk by 2008.

Next year China plans to send a probe to orbit the moon, laying the

way for a possible manned mission further down the road.

Sending up tourists, like Iranian-American telecoms billionaire Anousheh Ansari, who paid US\$20 million for a stay on the space station, is another option China could go for, Sun said.

"Once our technology is more mature, more reliable, there is this possibility. Not only male tourists, but female too," he said.

Expert commentary:

China has just started the journey of space exploration. We have a very reliable technology at very low cost. But our launch frequency is still too low to offer commercial tourism services.

We have defined three stages of space exploration, and have just achieved the first of them. That is to send astronauts to the space orbit. The second step is to conduct space walks and launch small space laboratories. The third phase is to put large space stations into orbit.

Only after we have established reliable space laboratory and permanent space stations can we consider commercial launches to send tourists, scholars and journalists into space.

But that does not mean that we cannot begin to offer space tourism services, because there are a number of other ways to provide these. As the demand is high for space tourism, China might start by using aircraft to take tourists into orbit and let them circle the Earth a few times. Whatever method we use for tourism, it will have to be safe and cheap.

— Pang Zhihao,
deputy editor-in-chief,
Space International

100 Chinese cuisines for Beijing Olympic

Beijing, October 18 (PTI)

– Nearly 100 cuisines from all over China have been recommended to be listed in the Beijing Olympics menu.

The dishes made their appearance in an Expo in Xi'an, the capital of northwest China's Shaanxi Province today.

Yak steak, Malan Noodle, and Mushroom soup are among the cuisines from all parts of China and many of the 30,000 visitors of the Chinese Catering Industry Expo showed interest in them which only account part of the recommended menu for the 2008 Games.

Organizers said the China Cuisine Association have been busy with choosing suitable food for athletes, officials, journalists as well as spectators during the Games two years away.

Asked by the Beijing Olympics organizers at the beginning of this year to help with the Olympic menu, the Association will make recommendations to the Beijing Olympic Games Committee and Olympic service providers, Expo organizers said.

Olympic flame to pass by Everest en route to Beijing

Monaco, October 19 (AFP)

– The Olympic flame could pass by Mt Everest, the world's highest mountain, en route to Beijing, organizers of the 2008 Summer Games announced.

"We're planning to take the Olympic flame to Mount Everest, it's a project we're studying," spokesman Yang Bin yuan said here.

The move could be seen as a highly contentious one given that most of the Himalayan mountain range lies within Tibet, a region ruled by China since it sent in the military to "liberate" the Himalayan region in 1950.

Mt Everest, standing 8,848 meters (29,028 feet) high, lies on Nepal's border with Tibet, which international rights groups accuse the Chinese of ruling through repression and military intimidation.

Yang confirmed that construction of the 37 sporting infrastructures, including 31 in Beijing, being built for the Games would be finished by the end of 2007.

Once the sites are finished, the organizers plan to host around 40 test events, including the Paralympic Games.

Two have already taken place at the Beijing softball center and sailing in Qingdao.

New drive to correct bad English



Mistakes still exist.

CFP Photo

Beijing, October 15 (GamesBids.com) – A new drive has been launched to correct bad English ahead of the Beijing 2008 Summer Olympic Games.

Although there have been previous attempts to wipe out the 'Chinglish' phrases, they have not

been successful.

Examples of Chinglish range from emergency exists at Beijing airport which read 'no entry on peacetime', a road sign on Beijing's Avenue of Eternal Peace warning of a dangerous pavement says, 'to take notice of safe; the slippery are very crafty' and menus which list such items as 'corrugated iron beef', 'government abuse chicken', and 'chop the strange fish'.

The city authorities will issue new translation guides by the end of the year and would be handed out to hotels and shopping malls, on public transit, and at tourist attractions.

The bureau said a panel of English professors and expatriates would review results.

Expert commentary:

I have been personally involved with the municipal government's crack down on Chinglish signs for five years.

The fundamental reason for the prevalence of 'Chinglish', even after the campaigns against it, is a lack of seriousness from translators and those who commission them.

Some say it results from Chinese chauvinism. That might be a factor. Many translators merely perform a literal word for word translation and don't ask native English speakers for the correct phrases and words.

But I am worried about another possibility. Supposedly

accurate English signs might use unfamiliar terminology. We need to establish our own style.

What is the 'standard English'? British English? American English? Indian English? Australian English? Language is a tool and is always developing. The purpose of using a language is to allow people to understand what you mean.

We have prepared six booklets, or manuals, for the right English phrases in six sectors, like road signs, hotels, museums, etc., and will distribute them free.

— Dr David N Tool,
linguistic consultant,
Beijing Speaks Foreign Languages Committee

Beijing, Hebei to cooperate on energy

Beijing, October 16 (Reuters / RedNova) – Hebei Province will supply ethanol fuel to the capital, Beijing, after both parties signed a deal on the development of renewable energy.

An official with the Hebei branch of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) told Interfax that the China National Cereals, Oils and Food-stuffs Corporation (Cofco) would

also participate in the ethanol fuel cooperation project.

Cofco plans to build a 300,000-ton-per annum fuel ethanol plant in the city of Hengshui in Hebei.

The Cofco Biomass Energy Corporation, the project company, will invest US\$15 million into the plant, which will be completed by the end of 2007.

The two parties also signed an

agreement to support the preparatory work on the Hebei Funing power plant, which will be paid for by the Beijing Energy Investment Holding Co., Ltd. The project will supply power to the 2008 Olympic Games.

The energy cooperation memorandum also includes first-phase construction of an LNG terminal project at the Caofeidian port.

According to *The Beijing News*,

Beijing will transport imported natural gas to Caofeidian port for liquefaction and it will then be transmitted back to Beijing.

Construction work for the project began last February with the cooperation of Beijing, Hebei and the China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC).

The first phase will be built with six million tons of annual production capacity.

boring areas to support their day to day consumption.

The concern here is sustainability. Can Beijing always buy

energy, water, land, and even air from her neighbors?

— Ryan Lotenberg,
chief editor, RedNova.com

Interview with the editor:

The report reflects resource shortages in Beijing and the efforts

Insurance capital allowed to invest in banking

Beijing, October 17 (Xinhua) – Around 45 billion yuan (US\$5.7 billion) insurance capital could flood into China's banking sector after the nation's top insurance watchdog unveiled a package of investment rules this week.

According to detailed rules issued by the China Insurance Regulatory Commission (CIRC) for insurers' equity investment in banks, insurance institutions could invest no more than three percent of their total assets in State-owned commercial banks,

joint-stock commercial banks and city commercial banks.

"Equity investment in banks is just the first step, and we are considering regulations on investment in fixed-assets projects and State-owned enterprises," a CIRC official told reporters.

The regulation stipulated that insurers could use their registered capital and provisions over 10 years for the investment.

In terms of purpose and scale, insurers' investment in banks is divided into two types general

and grand investment.

Those accounting for less than a five percent stake in a bank are classified as general investment, while those greater than five percent are regarded as grand investment. There are no upper ceilings for the investment.

China's insurance premiums hit 493 billion yuan (US\$62.4 billion) in 2005, ranking 11th in the world. The industry witnessed a 25 percent annual increase from 2000 to 2005, China Insurance Regulatory Commission (CIRC) said.

By the end of last year, the total assets of China's insurance sector had reached 1.5 trillion yuan (US\$190 billion), implying that 45 billion yuan (US\$5.7 billion) insurance capital could be poured into China's banking sector this year.

China will see its insurance premiums double to one trillion yuan (US\$125 billion) by 2010, driven by people's growing demand and constant product innovation, said the state insurance watchdog.

Beijing hosts insurance conference

By Qiu Jiaoning

The annual conference of International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS) opened in Beijing on Thursday. During the three-day conference, around 600 insurance supervisors and observers from 94 countries met and exchange views on pressing topics facing the industry.

It is the first time China hosted the conference since it joined IAIS in 2000, said Wu Dingfu, chairman of China Insurance Regulatory Commission (CIRC).

With the theme of 'Fostering Development and Managing Risk – Challenges for Insurance Supervision', the conference covered issues from solvency, cross-border supervision, cross-sector supervision, disclosure, corporate governance, accounting, pensions, reinsurance, catastrophes, microinsurance, to agriculture insurance.

Carlyle fails to snare Xugong

By Jiang Xubo

US-based Carlyle Group (CG), a private equity firm, has given up trying to acquire the majority share of a subsidiary of Xuzhou Construction Machinery Group (XCMG), China's state-owned machinery giant, according to an amendment of the two companies' purchase plan announced this week.

Each of the two companies will hold half of the subsidiary's share, according to the new plan, which has been submitted for central government's approval.

Carlyle was expected to grab 85 percent of the subsidiary company for US\$375 million, while XCMG would only control the other 15 percent, according to the two companies' agreement on the handover reached last October.

The initial plan for the deal was halted because of government and public concern over the loss of the key state-owned estate.

Bully for you

The US stock market is like a roaring bull this week with Dow Jones index breaking 12,000 points. It is estimated the bull market will continue for a few years.

Xinhua Photo



ANA launches credit card

By Huang Daohen

All Nippon Airways (ANA) has become the first non-Chinese airline to issue a credit card in China. The company issued the ANA Card China on October 18, with China Merchant Bank (CMB) and Presige International.

ANA Card China is the third

ANA Card issued outside Japan, following similar cards in the US and Hong Kong. The card allows ANA Mileage Club (AMC) members residing or working in China to make and settle payments using local currency and accrue mileage for every purchase they make. Annual membership will cost 650

yuan for the cardholder.

Customers who successfully apply for ANA Card China before March 31, 2007 will receive 5,000 bonus miles. Application forms can be found at all ANA branches and airport counters in Beijing. Customers may also contact 800-820-0896, or at www.anacardchina.com.

Beijing-New Delhi flight added

By Han Manman

A direct flight between Beijing and New Delhi will be opened by Air China, the country's second-biggest and main international airline, starting from October 30.

The service will be available three times a week between the capitals of the two countries. The state-run carrier is the second airline after Ethiopian Airlines to offer

a direct service between New Delhi and Beijing.

According to Zhao Quanzhen, country manager for Air China in India, passenger traffic between India and China grew by 20 percent to 600,000 in 2005. And next year, the company intends to make this a daily service and shift the operations to either Airbus A330 or A340 aircraft or a Boeing 777.

At present another Chinese airline – China Eastern – operates between the two countries, connecting New Delhi and Shanghai. According to him, out of the 600,000 passengers who traveled between India and China last year only 200,000 were Chinese – due to difficulty in securing Indian visas, stiff hotel tariffs in India and restrictions on Chinese investments.

AgBank's US\$100 bln bail-out

Beijing, October 19 (Reuters) – Agricultural Bank of China is close to finalizing a pre-listing bail-out of US\$100 billion, according to a senior official with Central Huijin, the Ministry of Finance's investment arm.

The bank has more than US\$90 billion of non-performing loans on its books.

The restructuring of AgBank is a politically sensitive issue given the impact any reform could have on rural areas.

Wal-Mart to buy supermarket

Beijing, October 16 (UPI) – Wal-Mart will spend US\$1 billion to buy 31 stores of the Taiwan-based Trust-Mart on the Chinese mainland over the following three years. Wal-Mart will acquire the remainder of Trust-Mart's 100 stores, *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

Founded in 1997, Trust-Mart has outlets in more than 20 provinces and about 30,000 employees on the mainland.

ChinaRe plans IPO

Beijing, October 14 (Dow Jones) – China Reinsurance (Group) Co., the country's sole domestic reinsurance firm, plans to launch an initial public offering in Hong Kong and Shanghai after it receives a capital injection from the government.

The size of the capital injection and the timetable are still under discussion, Li Kemu, vice chairman of the China Insurance Regulatory Commission, told Dow Jones Newswires.

Boeing wins US\$1.8 bln deal

Beijing, October 18 (IANS) – China Southern Airlines has signed a US\$1.8 billion deal with US aircraft manufacturer Boeing for the supply of six Boeing 777 freight planes, which will be delivered between November 2008 and July 2010.

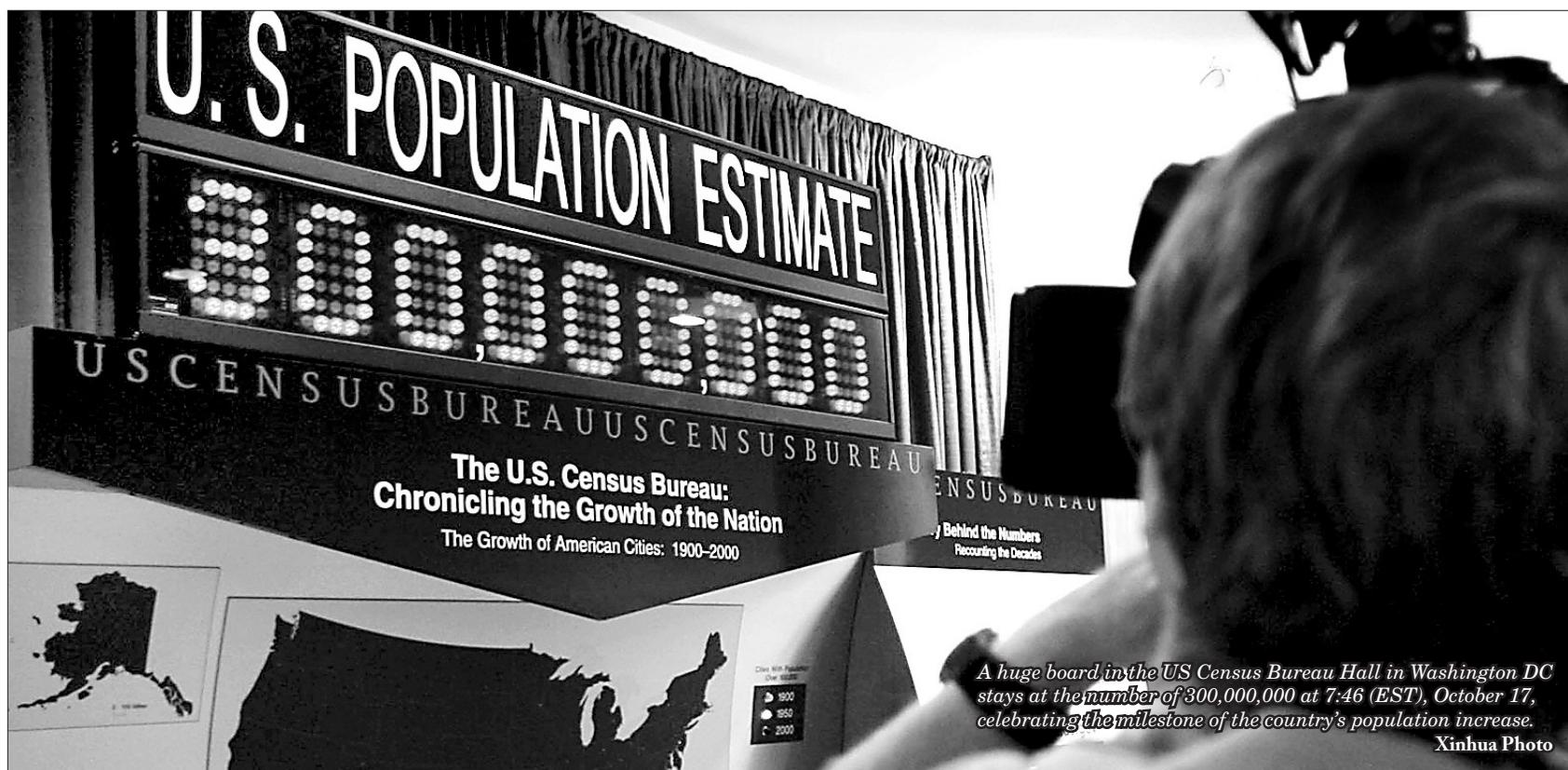
China Southern also announced a contract by which Boeing will supply its subsidiary Xiamen Airlines with six Boeing 737-800 passenger planes, starting in 2010.

Text 100 to join local PR firms

By Annie Wei

Text 100, a global public relations firm specializing in IT, said they wanted to team up with local PR firms to develop opportunities in secondary or third-class cities in China.

"The PR market in China is growing very quickly," said Adham Hynes, Text 100's global CEO in Beijing. Text 100 started business in China in 2003, much later than other global PR firms, but its business in China grew 80 percent in terms of revenue and staff within three years.



US population hits 300 million

By Mike Carney (USA Today)

The US population hit 300 million at 7:46 am ET, according to the Census Bureau.

Here's how it adds up:

* one birth every seven sec-

onds;

* one death every 13 seconds;

* a net gain of one immigrant every 31 seconds;

The result is an increase in the total population of one person every

11 seconds. At that rate, the government expects the population to reach 400 million in 2043, according to CNN.

Woodrow Wilson was in the White House when the population

reached 100 million in 1915. Lyndon Johnson held power when it hit 200 million in 1967.

What will the United States look like when we reach the next hundred-million mark?

population growth?

We may hit 400 million by May of next year.

— Bob

Reaching a population of 300 million is no laughing matter. Thirteen- and fourteen-year-old girls are having babies because that's

what their friends are doing. Couples going to other countries to adopt babies and bringing them back here when this country has thousands of unwanted children already. Time to start spaying and neutering humans.

— Carl

Comments:

Bringing in young, educated, hard working immigrants could do a lot to save social security.

— Brian

Just think how many more people would be here if it wasn't for abortion.

— Old American

What we need to do is educate everyone who comes to this country legally and let them know what is expected of them to contribute to this society.

— BossMan

Is the influx of illegal immigrants counted in this forecast US

By Guardian Unlimited

Madonna's attempt to 'do a Jolie' and come over all humanitarian by adopting 13-month-old Malawian boy David Banda looks as if it might be deteriorating into a bit of a farce.

As well as opposition from child protection groups, the Material Girl's quest for a new child is

also prompting growing indignation from the rest of the world. This afternoon Reuters is carrying reports of a witness who claims to have seen a bodyguard working for Madonna boarding a plane at a Malawi airport with the little boy.

Celebrity gossip site *Hollywood Backwash* says the deal "stinks to high heaven" and "reeks of pref-

erential American celebrity treatment", while *Pandemonium* sums up the adoption campaign with one word – "selfish".

Questions are also being asked about correct protocol in Malawi's press. *The Nation* reports President Bingu wa Mutharika had "very little information on the pop star's intentions" and that her trip to

the Mchinji Orphanage had been "shrouded in secrecy".

However, there are some voices of support for the queen of pop.

Fan site *Maddonalicious* asks "Why vilify Madonna's generosity?" and *Right Wing News* proclaims "Good for her!", arguing that any child in an orphanage in Malawi must be desperate to get out.

Comments:

Madonna could supply a village with a teacher/doctor/nurses etc., but no – she just bypasses all of the regulations to 'adopt' an orphan. Fine for the orphan, not so good for the ones she didn't adopt. It could be worse – the poor kid could have ended up with Michael Jackson, rather than as Madonna's latest fashion accessory, which is what the child really is. Nauseating really.

— StaffNurse

Will no one rescue this child so that he can return to Malawi and face a life of poverty, disease, starvation and war like the rest of his luckier peers? I mean, my God, he might end up needing

therapy at 20 instead of dying in a dung heap at 10. Oh, the injustice of it all! For shame, Madonna, for shame!

— Whitt

How far have we actually come from times of slavery and colonialism?? Not far it seems.

— africanparsley

Notwithstanding her husband's sporadic film career, do you think she needs the publicity? I'm all for screening out the dangerous, but lets accept that the process for adoption in the UK seems to be imbecilic.

— chadders

When the boy grows up, perhaps with some money from his

multi-millionaire adoptive parents, he may take a great interest in charity work in his home country and helping his extended family and tribe there. I see a lot of potential positive things that can come of that, maybe Madonna and Guy do too.

— Sinbad

If one child is saved from poverty and premature death then that has to be a good thing. So much of the negative attention around this sounds nothing more than childish jealousy. How many of the detractors have actually done anything positive for Malawi themselves, even if they are of limited means in compari-

son to Madonna?

I do not believe anyone would take on a child as a fashion accessory and to suggest otherwise with absolutely no evidence to back this up is simple stupidity.

— Hasso

First, as I understand it, she is funding or donating funds to an orphanage there.

Second, how many of you people are fighting to save a child from a life of suffering?

I am appalled that people have sunk so low as to criticize her. She does not need to do this to make headlines. Her success guarantees that for her already.

— Lelia

Weekly topics

Newsweek (US)

1. When my mailman failed to deliver
2. Amish massacre missteps?
3. There's hope for US protestant churches
4. Fashion designers introduce less-than-zero sizes
5. America not ready to fix energy woes

New York Times (US)

1. Can you tell a Sunni from a Shiite?
2. In final weeks, GOP focuses on best bets
3. Press secretary raising money, and eyebrows
4. Cheney hits heartland, and he can feel the love
5. Hillary, not as in the Mount Everest Guy

Sydney Morning Herald (Aus)

1. Not hungry, just Aboriginal kitsch, says former PM
2. Now Gypsies want Borat banned
3. Apple blames Microsoft for virus-infected iPods
4. Sydney sex assaults 'not connected'
5. Mac attack as Mills alleges assault, drug use

Toronto Star (Canada)

1. Streisand steals Toronto hearts
2. Hero dog dies trying to save cat
3. Woman charged after money goes missing from bank
4. Demystifying the wine list
5. Apple says some iPods carry Windows virus

Daily Telegraph (UK)

1. Kim's life of luxury as people starve
2. Crisis over gang attacks on police
3. My Aids test: scarier than Scarlett's
4. Greater weight, lower IQ
5. Bill Murray goes to student party

(By Jiang Xubo)

Olympic soccer coach to put pen to paper



Ratimir Dujkovic

By He Jianwei

The future coach of China's Olympic soccer team, Ratimir Dujkovic, will come to Beijing this Friday to ink a contract with the Chinese Football Association (CFA).

He and his team will go to Tokyo to have a friendly match with Japan's Olympic team on October 25, after his meeting with China's Olympic team. His team will also have a match with Cameroon's Olympic team in Guangzhou on November 11.

Serbian Ratimir Dujkovic was appointed coach of China's Olympic soccer team for the 2008

Beijing Games last Monday.

His appointment was confirmed this week during a two-day meeting of Chinese Football Association officials and will be announced after a sign-off from China's State Administration of Sports.

"There is no certainty he will be able to sort out the formalities by the 25th. It is possible he will accompany the team, but not formally take charge, because the contract still requires the sports administration's approval," said Wei Shaohui, director of the CFA's Olympic affairs office.

Dujkovic, 60, a former Red

Star Belgrade player, coached Ghana to the last 16 of the 2006 World Cup in Germany, and has also coached the national teams of Venezuela, Myanmar and Rwanda.

He first established his reputation in Africa by taking Rwanda to the African Nations Cup final for the first time in 2004 and augmented it when he turned around Ghana's qualifying campaign and led them to a debut World Cup appearance in Germany.

China hopes a foreign coach will help the national team secure a medal at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Father of modern genetics speaks at CAU

By Huang Daohen

He discovered the structure of double-stranded DNA aged just 25, and is now chief director of the Human Genome Project, and a Nobel laureate. The man widely known as 'the father of modern genetics', James Dewey Watson was in China recently, and gave a lecture at the China Agricultural University (CAU) on Thursday. Dr Watson was also granted an honorary professorship by the university.

Chen Zhangliang, president of the China Agricultural University, went in person to meet Dr Watson at the airport and accompanied him to the university. Dr Watson said in a speech following the ceremony awarding him his honorary title, "It doesn't matter that young people have the wrong ideas. The key is to maintain curiosity always."

He told his young audience, "Each individual should have his own ideas - although not everyone is correct. When I was a graduate student, I had some ideas, which were later proved to be wrong. But it does not matter. This is a critical exploration of curiosity. We should not only learn what it is, but also investigate why it is and what is the origin."

This is Dr Watson's second visit to China. He is best known for his discovery of the structure of DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid), for which he shared the 1962 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine with fellow researchers Francis Crick and Maurice Wilkins.

Mascot, meet monkey



Dr. Jane Goodall, an English scientist known as 'an Einstein in the field of Zoological Behaviorists' comes to the CCTV Tower and says hello to Fuwa on Wednesday.

Photo provided by Beijing Youth Daily

New York ballet stars to debut in Beijing

By Chu Meng

New York City Ballet (NCB) all-star troupe, one of the world's first-class ballet troupes will debut in Beijing Exhibition Theater to perform a series of masterpieces by Balanchine next Saturday night.

Three pieces of *Who Cares*, *Stars and Stripes pas de deux*, and *Tchaikovsky Pas de deux* are directed by Balanchine. Two other pieces - *Don Q*, *Minkus pas de deux* with variations, and *A Fool for You* - will also feature.

Some of the biggest names

from the NCB will grace the stage. Nilas Martins became a soloist in 1991 and was promoted to principal dancer in 1993. He is widely regarded as the inheritor of the essence of NCB and has played lead roles in many masterpieces by the company. Jennie Somogyi became a soloist in 1998 and got promoted to principal dancer in 2000. She is a recipient of the Mae L. Wien Award, the Princess Grace Foundation Award and the Martin E. Segal Award. You also can see others such as Charles

Askegard and Jenifer Ringer.

NCB is one of the foremost dance companies in the world, founded by the great choreographer George Balanchine.

Nilas Martins will lead the group of soloists and lead dancers to fete the eyes of Beijing audiences. Most of the dances have never been performed in China before.

Ticket prices vary from 100 yuan to 980 yuan. For more information call the booking hotline: 8528 2090 or 6833 6969 for details.



Photo provided by China Performance Art Company

Third time unlucky for Muti fans

By Han Manman

Riccardo Muti, a great interpreter of Verdi and Mozart, has cancelled his Beijing concert at the Forbidden City Concert Hall this evening due to serious flu.

He had planned to give Beijing a great concert together with the China Philharmonic Orchestra. However, he is unable to travel

because of his illness.

According to the Italian Embassy, Muti is now staying in hospital and the doctors insist he cancel all current concerts during his convalescence. Muti said in a fax that he would discuss with the organizer to hold a concert in Beijing as soon as possible.

People who bought tickets

should go to Piao.com.cn or the theater directly for a refund. For convenience, there will be more people on duty than at any other time in front of the concert hall. The festival organizer said those returning tickets can also exchange them for those of another concert. Deadline for ticket returns is 9pm today.

Muti is well known in Beijing, and many people booked early in order to see him. This is actually the third time Beijing audiences have missed out on Muti. In 2000, he was to join the Beijing International Music Festival, but cancelled because of a problem in the contract, and a second time because of SARS.

Wolong Giant Panda Protection and Research Center began taking on volunteer helpers in 2004. The center claims volunteers receive full training to perform tasks such as preparing food, feeding the pandas and cleaning their pens, accompanied by full-time center staff.

UN warns on rising marine pollution threat

By Qiu Jiaoning

With close to 90 percent of Asia's sewage discharged without treatment the region's marine environment is increasingly stressed, threatening economically vital coastal areas, including fishery industries, according to an UN announcement at an international conference to combat marine pollution.

in Beijing on Tuesday.

Some 700 delegates from around 115 countries are attending the conference with the aim of charting a new course for the Global Program Action (GPA) for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Sources - a voluntary initiative under the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP).

For example, in the seas of East Asia, close to 90 percent

of sewage discharges from the land to the marine environment are untreated. In China, an estimated 75 percent of wastewater is treated.

Presently, about one billion people are living in coastal urban centers. Estimates show that almost 50 percent of the world's coasts are threatened by development-related activities.

Ideas for social innovation

By Jackie Zhang

From open universities to summer universities, the *Big Issue* magazine to participative budgeting: these ideas come from all over the world, but they were gathered this week at the International Conference on Social Innovation held in Beijing.

The conference is an important event of the joint program on social innovation of the British Council, China Research Center for Comparative Politics & Economics (CCPE) and the Young Foundation.

During the conference, experts and officials were invited from different provinces of China, including Zhejiang, Guangdong, and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and from overseas including Brazil, Chile, Britain and South Africa.

Social innovation refers to new ideas that work in meeting social goals. Summer universities, which gather young people in their summer vacations in order to keep them away from crime, and the *Big Issue* magazine, which gives homeless people a job selling magazines to earn a living, are successful ideas from the UK. Participative budgeting, where local government decides its budget by way of a democratic symposium, originated in Zhejiang Province in China.



Get up, stand up

Over 300 disabled Beijing citizens joined a Stand Up to Make Poverty History event in Beijing No 3 School for the Deaf this Monday.

Photo by Lu Li

European business aims to get ethical

By Han Manman

The European Chamber of Commerce will launch the first business guide to corporate social responsibility in China at the Kerry Centre Hotel today. The *Business for People or People for Business?* guide encourages

European businesses in China to "a sustainable society."

The bilingual guide is set in a Chinese context and discusses ways that European companies operating in China can integrate corporate social responsibility (CSR) into their business strategies.

It also highlights case studies from a variety of companies - including Adidas, Bayer, Deutsche Bank and Nokia - that demonstrate how CSR is an essential part of corporate integrity, branding, and reputation building, which is ultimately targeted at winning the

trust of stakeholders. The guide claims that CSR is the basis for creating sustainable business models and competitive advantages over rival businesses.

A party to celebrate the Chamber's sixth birthday will follow the launch of the guide this afternoon.

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Beijing Olympic film is a wrap



Giuseppe Tornatore (left) and Mario Cotone (right), producer of *The Last Emperor*.

CFP Photo

By Chen Shasha

Giuseppe Tornatore, one of five international filmmakers invited to China to film a 2008 Olympic promotion movie, finished work on his opus last Thursday, and raised the curtain on the 'Vision Beijing' project.

When Tornatore appeared at the foot of the Dongbian Men turret at 7pm with a Chinese fan in his hand, he was soon illuminated with camera flashes. "I was moved by Mr Tornatore's

Cinema Paradiso when I was in middle school, and I'm glad to have appointed him to direct our film," said Wang Hui, executive deputy director of the Media and Communications Department of the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Olympics.

Known for *The Legend of 1900* and *Malena*, Tornatore was the first filmmaker from the project to visit Beijing. After touring the capital and talking with citizens in August, Torna-

tore went back to Italy to write the script. The film tells the story of a group of adult students and their teacher in middle school who haven't seen each other for nearly 30 years.

According to Chinese filmmaker Gu Changwei, who filmed *Peacock*, the Olympic promotion film is a special way to show the capital. "We live in this city and it's easy to turn a blind eye to something, but the international directors may notice what

we neglect," Gu said.

People now can send their own DV films of Beijing to 'Vision Beijing' (five to ten minutes each). Their films may be shown together with films by the five international filmmakers on international flights between now and 2008. Volunteers working as translators, tourist guides and film editors are also needed. Anyone interested can dial 6715 2378 for details.

Eccentric collector shows off his labels

By Chu Meng

Robert Skalli is a wine maker from the south of France, an engineer in agronomy and oenology who owns his own winery and cellar. He is also a wine label collector. He flew to Beijing to share his collection with his friends from the ASC wine tasting club on Wednesday night.

This 53-year-old started to love affair with wine in middle school, after a summer vacation internship helping to harvest grapes in his village. He has run his own businesses since he was in his 30s. So far he has collected over 1,000 different wine labels from across the world during his countless wine tasting trips around France, Italy,

Germany, Australia, Spain and Croatia.

"One of the beautiful things about a bottle of wine is the label," he said at the wine tasting evening on Wednesday. "Especially since that is about all you have left to cherish when the contents are gone. Pasting your labels in a cellar book or scrapbook, or mounting them into a picture frame seems like a fitting way to remember the wine itself."

He catalogs his treasures into different categories, such as 'here yesterday gone today', 'funny art', 'exotic custom themes', and 'historic celebrities'. He arranges groups of labels to illustrate the evolution of a winery's label over



Robert Skalli is teaching club members how to remove the label from the bottle.

Photo provided by ASC

a period of years, or to show a common theme, or just to show some unusual aspects about the graphics.

As well as showing off his collection he also taught club members how to remove wine labels properly. There are more than a few ways to approach wine label removal. "I have heard about people soaking, peeling, cutting, and steaming the labels off their wine bottles. Personally, I prefer the label's original finish, and I have had a great deal of success at removing wine labels from bottles by soaking them in hot water, and using a single-edged razor blade as necessary to remove the label."

City set to celebrate first animated film festival

By Huang Daoher

The French cultural center will hold a month-long animated film festival next weekend to mark the 30th anniversary of the International Festival of Film Animation.

Organizers claim it is the first celebration of its kind to be held in Beijing. It will feature screenings of some of the best animated films covering a range of genres from science fiction and thrillers to surrealism. Films by French masters Sylvain Chomet and Michel Ocelot will also be screened and experts will give lectures on different animation techniques.

Festival highlights:

-International Animation Day (on the 26th at the Chinese Film Archives and on the 28th at the French Cultural Centre).

-Christian Volckman in Beijing

The creator of the brand new thriller *Renaissance* and one of the directors of the movie *Skyland* will be at the Chinese Film Archives and at the French Cultural Center to talk to the public about his work.

The following movies will be screened at the festival: *Kirikou et La Socizre*, *Modern Tales*, *Skyland*, *Kaena, la Prophzie*, *Whodunits and Chases*, French animation graduation films, *Renaissance* and *The Triplets of Belleville*. For more details, call the center on 6553 2627.

Talking text book for Chinese learners

By Jackie Zhang

A new guide to learning Chinese that includes a device that can pronounce words from the text is due to hit bookstores soon.

The book, *Chinese 900*, will be available in 14 languages, including English, French, Deutsch, Portuguese, Spanish, Russian and Japanese. It is a joint publication by the Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press (FLTRP) and Thomson Learning.

"The book will be on sale in China early next month at the latest. Thomson Learning, which is responsible for the book's international publication, will put the English edition on sale in English-speaking countries first," said Man Xingyuan from FLTRP.

The book comes with three CDs and a DVD-ROM. "We have also designed a kind of voice pen. When people point at sentences in the book with the pen, it can give the correct pronunciation," Man said.

The price of the book has not been decided yet. "We plan to sell the book, including the CDs and the DVD-ROM, for less than 200 yuan. We are currently thinking of charging 189 yuan. It should be available in all good bookstores," said Man.

NGOs to discuss desertification in Beijing

By He Jianwei

NGOs from China and South Korea will discuss the issue of how to prevent desertification and protect grasslands at a Beijing forum this weekend.

The third Sino-South Korean Forum on Desertification Prevention and Grassland Protection will get underway on Saturday at the Contemporary Service Center. It is being jointly organized by the Chinese NGO

'Friends of Nature' and the South Korean NGO 'Korean Federation of Environment Movement'.

The theme of the forum is 'protection of water resources and the ecology of grasslands'. Participants will discuss the relationship between the protection of water resources and the prevention of grassland desertification.

NGO staff, experts and the volunteers will attend the forum. "Around 60 people will take

part in the forum, including five from the Korean Federation of Environment Movement and one from the Ford Foundation," said Zhang Shuo, from Friends of Nature.

"We started a program to harness the saline land with Korean Federation of Environment Movement earlier this year in Xilin Gol, in the eastern reaches of the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region," said

Zhang. "We hope to make this area green over the next two years," added Zhang.

Friends of Nature, which was founded in 1993, is the first NGO in China to deal with issues of environment protection. The Korean Federation of Environment Movement was also founded in 1993 and has been working with Friends of Nature on desertification issues since 2004.

Businessman loses stuff, finds it

By Gan Tian

Iranian businessman Hassan Razavifard came to China with his friend for the China International Textile Machinery Exhibition held in China International Exhibition Center on Tuesday.

They arrived at 3:30pm.

However, after Razavifard left the taxi, he forgot his luggage in the trunk of the taxi. His laptop and some important files were all left in the taxi. Not knowing what to do, he asked the police for help.

Mr Li, the leader of the Dong-

wai Team in the Chaoyang Traffic Management Bureau, accepted the case and contacted the taxi driver according to the receipt Mr Razavifard provided at 4pm. The taxi driver was not willing to come back, so Li took Razavifard and his friend to Wangfujing and found his luggage.

Half an hour later, the laptop and files were returned to the Iranian businessman. Expressing gratitude towards the police, Razavifard also reminded visitors to Beijing never forget to ask for the receipt when taking a taxi.

Going green



Do your bit – reduce, reuse and recycle

By Tom Mackenzie

The Olympic organisers' claim that they will put on a 'green games' in 2008 often seems laughable. Even the most optimistic amongst us would stop short of proclaiming that one of the most polluted cities on earth could be transformed into an oasis of green in under two years. But, although a complete environmental overhaul seems unlikely, changes are afoot. The government is pumping hundreds of millions of yuan into environmental improvement projects and residents are starting to do their bit. Here, we show how by recycling, you can help to make Beijing a greener city – and even make a bit of money at the same time.

The recycling process

The State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA) and its branches, the local Environmental Protection Bureaux (EPB) existing in each district of Beijing, are responsible for overseeing the operation of the entire waste management system in the city and setting the standards. But in practice,



Photo by Global Village Beijing

collection of waste in Beijing involves three main stakeholders. Collection of waste is primarily the responsibility of the City Sanitation Bureau (CSB) of the district municipal governments in Beijing. They collect all waste from streets and waste generated by public organizations. The private sector plays a

major role in the recycling process: private and state-owned collecting companies separate and recycle valuable waste like paper, metal and plastic bottles. They are mostly made up of migrants from the countryside who collect waste by either setting up collection stations or by walking through lanes and streets with handcarts or bicycles. The last group is composed of waste pickers who look for recyclables at refuse garbage-disposal sites.

Where to recycle your waste

More and more residences are now equipped with waste separation facilities. In most of the cases there are two separate bins for recyclable or non-recyclable items. Sometimes the separation is even

more precise: kitchen waste, paper, plastic, glass, batteries, all have separate bins. If the place where you live does not include facilities for source-separation of household waste you can still sort your waste and then go to a collection centre or try to have them picked up regularly by a collection worker.

Making money from recycling

Ok, we're not talking mega bucks but depending on how many Tsingtaos you get through in a week, you could be looking at anything up to an enormous 10 yuan. Newspaper goes for just over one yuan a kilo, plastic for just 0.2 yuan a kilo and glass around 0.15 yuan a kilo. Bronze fetches a much higher price at 52 yuan a kilo.

Tips:

The good people at environmental NGO Global Village Beijing (www.bj3r.com) encourage the '3R principle': reduce, reuse and recycle. Recycling is only the last step but it is important to think about potentially generated waste earlier, when doing shopping at the supermarket. Taking your own bag to reduce number of plastic bags, refusing products with too

much packaging, giving preference to quality products with extended product life, are a few easy changes people can work into their daily life.

For more information

Go to the Global Village Beijing website, www.bj3r.com (Chinese only) or their sister website www.greenchoice.cn (English and Chinese).

Alternatively, you can call the Environmental Protection Bureau on 010-6481 3785.

ASK Beijing Today

Q: Yulia, P from the US wanted to know more about Beijing's underground city.

A: Beijing's underground city is made up of many hutong-like underground tunnels. It was opened to overseas tourists in 1980. The entrance is in Xishime Hutong in Chongwen District. Most of the exits are blocked off except the one in Ritan Park. The underground city is decked out with many old photos, a shrine to Mao and a red carpet. As long as you follow the red carpet you won't get lost.

Q: Sam Wong, a Canadian architect asked: "I've always wanted to visit the National Stadium, can I go and take a look?"

A: The Beijing Tourism Bureau told *Beijing Today* that the National Stadium (known as the Bird's Nest) and the Watercube haven't yet been opened to tourists. But anyone is allowed to go and have a look at the outside of the construction sites.

Q: My Chinese colleague has just had a baby girl but she says she already knows what her daughter will be when she grows up. She claimed to have found out through 'zhuazhou' – what is it?

A: Zhuazhou is a traditional custom in China. When a child is one year old, the parents will place many articles in front of their baby. What the child chooses will determine the educational direction they are likely to take in the future. The origins of this custom can be traced back to the Song Dynasty (960-1279). Nowadays, many parents still carry on the custom but most don't take it too seriously. Different items had different meanings: a stamp symbolized the potential to be an officer, stationary symbolized literary talents, an abacus statistics and finance and sewing or cooking utensils good house management skills. Nowadays, items include computers, model cars, magazines and all kinds of digital toys.

(By Wei Ying)

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Cynical realist Fang Lijun: The modern man

By Huang Daohen

Interest is a kind of man-made genius, while genius is a kind of natural interest. Without genius, your interest would never be realized; vice versa, without interest, your genius would become an abnormality. In today's art circles, some are geniuses without interest; some have interest without being geniuses – Fang Lijun, is of course, a genius with interest.

I still had not seen a Fang Lijun painting when an art groupie told me: "Fang Lijun is great. He is the only great artist I have ever met." Dozens of art critics, fellow artists and Sino-culture vultures also speak of the 43-year-old artist in the same glowing terms. When I did finally see a Fang Lijun painting, I understood what all the fuss was about.

In early October, FANG LIJUN: TODAY, Fang's largest solo exhibition to date was finally held at the Today Art Museum. The exhibition features about 100 works. Among them are many newly completed works, including oil paintings, prints and statues which are meant to reflect the lives of people living in this flashy new world.



Ink-and-wash Painting No 7



Printmaking 2002.12.9



Printmaking 2000.5.25



Printmaking 2000.5.20

Painting

Schooled at a young age in propaganda-oriented realism, Fang's draughtsmanship is impeccable. He can add a few dabs of white to a canvas of blue oil paint and make you see a swimming pool.

The most striking piece in the exhibition hall is his large-scale color oil painting, *Oil on Canvas 2004-2006*, spanning 35 meters in length. It took the artist over three years to complete. The painting depicts bareheaded crowds, floating on the clouds, some laughing together, some yearning for and expecting with heads up. Fang's paintings give you a feeling of a strip cartoon; they hint at stories but a narrative never unfolds. They feature the figure of a shaven-headed man, alone or with a group of clones. This enigmatic bareheaded figure hunches his shoulders slightly and smiles, sometimes idiotically, as though he knows something you don't.

With dense rolling and fugacious layers of clouds, Fang tries to conjure up a feeling of 'following the inertia'. "Clouds are like that," said Fang. "I make use of the inertia to let every part follow it, but it will finally reach the point where you should stop 'seeing', and 'thinking', for it will no longer follow the inertia."

"It is easy to create space in the paintings, but not the time. I twist the plane into a round hole, like the sewer. Some may be near to it; some may not, so the concept of time gradually forms." Such treatment of clouds, in Fang's words, is not only a technical one, but also a kind of language, in which he tries to express his feeling of survival – clouds become a kind of image of a power out of control.

There is another example *Oil on Canvas 2006.5.31* – a huge boat like Noah's Ark, with expecting crowds cramming, sinking or floating. On the canvas of warm yellows and reds, the bareheaded man scratches his ear and hugs a plump woman; you feel that you've shared an intimate but comfortable moment with them.



Ink-and-wash Painting No 15

Sculpture/installation

Fang shows in this exhibition several sculpture works intermittently created over the last few years. *Sculpture 2006* is about golden head portraits treated with real gold. The treatment of golden head portraits, similar to the crowds on the clouds piece, originated from Fang's feeling of living in a flashy, money-oriented world. The golden heads are fixed on the ground by a thin steel wire swinging with the flowing air, leaving people with warm, golden feelings but extremely unstable and unbearable like someone sitting on a fence.

Another series of works, *Sculpture 2005.2.2*, are long sculptures consisting of trodden human figures, gray without any shine or color and easily neglected next to all the other pieces of art. This neglected feeling is just what Fang is after, like the situations of many people in reality, being neglected, abandoned and even trodden on.

The exhibition also includes Fang's *Sculpture Installation 2006*, an iron cage, with urchin-like figures inside, various kinds of toy weapons in hand, posing violently, making this artwork a piece of extreme satire.

From Fang's crowds on the clouds to his sculptures, one can trace his changes over the last few years – he develops an increasingly humanistic touch and it is evident that he worries about the situation of the common person. Since the late 1990s, Fang has changed his cynical and cheeky style of his early works. "These works of swirls and clouds, including those in the corner, have already become a kind of necessity in my painting," he said.

"A fool is someone who is still being taken in a hundred times. We're bored, crisis-ridden misguided people. Don't even consider trying the old riddle your dogma with holes, the rubbish heap."

- Fang Lijun



In the eyes of fellow artists

Li Xianting, China's leading art critic

Fang is the most gifted of the nation's post-89 generation. He had created an articulation of the mix of ennui and rogue he society in the first half of the 1990s.

Zhao Li, fellow artist

Fang Lijun no longer cares about the so-called 'avant-garde'.

Fang Lijun.



About the artist

Typically perceived as one of the instigators of the Cynical Realism movement, Fang Lijun is known for his oil paintings of bald men such as *Oil on canvas 2004-2006*, featuring nondescript figures. Ambiguous in nature, Fang's works have often been viewed as expressing a feeling of disillusionment associated with the years after 1990's. Fang currently lives and works in Beijing and exhibits both nationally and internationally.

Fang has participated in group exhibitions such as *Mao goes Pop* (1993), in Sydney, Australia, *New Chinese Art* (1998), in New York, USA and 2003's *Alors la Chine in Paris*.

Modern rebel

trusting people after
We'd rather be lost,
anks than be cheated.
d methods on us, we'll
en discard it in a



Portrait series



No 2



No 4



No 3



No 5

No 1: Oil on Canvas 2006.5.30

No 2: Oil on Canvas 2004-2006

No 3: Sculpture 2006

No 4: Oil on Canvas 2006.5.31

No 5: Sculpture Installation 2006

Photos provided by Today Art Museum

criticism, but shows his uncommon freedom and ease resulting from his escape from the 'case'. It is worth noting that Fang has already created his own visual structure through his pictures.

Xu Lei, fellow artist

It may be a kind of bias to think of Fang Lijun's works as rebelling against society but in our common experience, to understand Fang's art is to understand one of the ways of living in this world.

on of Cynical Realist artists. He

umor that pervaded Chinese

arde' or 'non-avant-garde'

About the exhibition

FANG LIJUN: TODAY! will run until October 31 at the Today Art Museum

Where: Building 4, Pingod Garden, No. 32, Baizhan Road,

Chaoyang

Open: Daily, 9am-5pm.

Tel: 6227 7395, 13661006476

Booker Prize winner: The Inheritance of Loss



By Kiran Desai

Synopsis: *The Inheritance of Loss* follows two separate threads set in the 1980s. In India near the Nepal border lives Jemubhai Popatlal, a retired Cambridge-educated judge. Living with him is his granddaughter Sai and his cook. Sai is 16 and has fallen in love with her 20-year old tutor, Gyan. Gyan, however, joins Nepalese independence insurgents and the group breaks into Jemubhai's home looking for weapons, terrorizing them all. Meanwhile, Biju, the son of Jemubhai's cook has illegally immigrated to New York City where his life is miserable. He tries to eke out an existence without being caught and being in an alien culture which isn't too kindly to him. It's his return home that sparks the confrontation in all their lives.

With "insurgents...illegal immigrants...terror" and "confrontation" this novel sounds bleak compared to Desai's previous work. Is the tone unremittingly negative?

Desai takes a skeptical view of the west's consumer-driven multiculturalism, noting the "sanitized elegance" of Lola's daughter's British-accented voice, which is "triumphant over any horrors the world might thrust upon others." At such moments, Desai seems far from writers like Zadie Smith and Hari Kunzru, whose fiction takes a generally optimistic view of what Salman Rushdie has called "hybridity, impurity, intermingling, the transformation that comes of new and unexpected combinations of human beings, cultures, ideas, politics, movies, songs." In fact, Desai's novel seems to argue that such multiculturalism, confined to the western metropolis and academe, doesn't begin to address the causes of extremism and violence in the modern world. Nor, it suggests, can economic globalization become a route to prosperity for the downtrodden. "Profit," Desai observes at one point, "could only be harvested in the gap between nations, working one against the other."

— By Pankaj Mishra, *The New York Times*

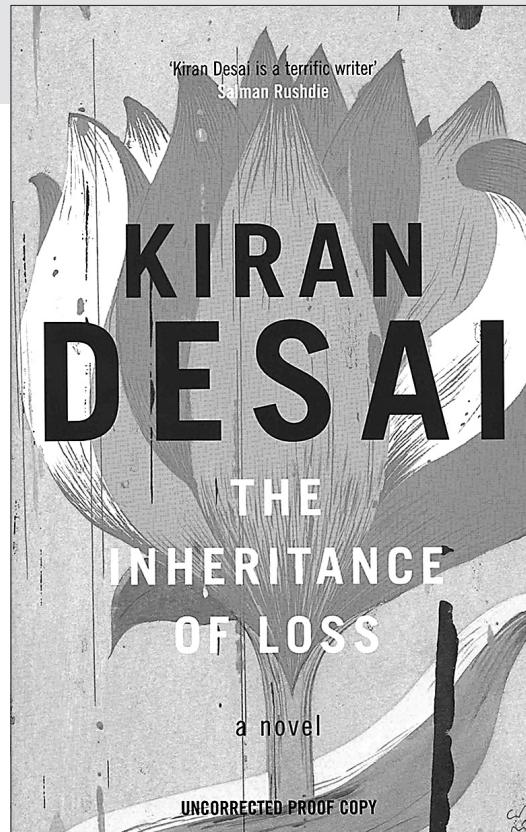
It sounds like Desai covers a multitude of issues. Are there those that are more prominent than others?

The point of this novel, constantly brought home to us in small and big ways, is how individuals are always failing to communicate. Desai flicks from a failed telephone call to a failed marriage, a lost dog to lost parents, and the cumulative experience is of atomization and thwarted yearning. I think this constant sense of disappointment is the reason why, although I admired this novel, I can't say I loved it.

— Natasha Walter, *The Guardian*

So readers should brace themselves for a sense of disappointment?

That is not to say that Desai's novel is an unremittingly depressing affair. She is a wonderful writer of comic set pieces, most of them centering on Biju's experiences in New York. Yet, while these chapters are carried off with aplomb, it is the melancholy at the heart of *The Inheritance of Loss*



story
get
lost
in

Loss that fuels the narrative. We see the crumbling dreams of Sai's neighbours, Swiss Father Booty and his alcoholic friend, Uncle Potty, still trapped in an older era when colonialism was for the best. *The Inheritance of Loss* dissects the dream of empire, old and new, and lays bare the idea of colonial modernity. It shows, without judgment, what happens to those who leave for a new life and yet find themselves outcasts both at home and abroad. It is a novel that manages to be both warm-hearted about human nature and clear-sighted about humanity's flaws. The comparisons with Naipaul may be inevitable, but this proves Desai has a mature, compassionate voice of her own.

— Sarah Hughes, *The Observer*

Are there any drawbacks to Desai's attempts to delve into so many issues within such a limited space?

The story ricochets between the two worlds, held together by Desai's sharp eyes and even sharper tongue. Her first book, *Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard*, was a lighthearted romp, a souffle of a book. This is a more substantial meal, taking on heavier issues of land and belonging, home and exile, poverty and privilege, and love and the longing for it. Desai's language, both vivid and wicked, her keen sense of detail and her fine ear for dialogue keep the whole story from just sliding downhill. At times Desai the raconteur can get the better of Desai the novelist. The threads of the

flashbacks nested within flashbacks, each of them individually engrossing and funny, but leaving the reader impatient to get back to the main story.

— Sandip Roy, *San Francisco Chronicle*

So there are a few flaws to this Booker Prize winning novel?

Perhaps because the book is so ambitious, it is not surprising to encounter a few flaws. The motive behind Gyan's sudden political conversion is somewhat obscure. The writing style has a detached quality, leaving the reader feeling less than fully engaged with the characters. And the chapters are broken into short episodes, interrupting the flow of the story. Despite these flaws, this novel is finely accomplished in the way it makes connections between private lives and public events.

— By Bharti Kirchner, *The Seattle Times*

The final word goes to the woman from the Globe...

If book reviews just cut to the chase, this one would simply read: This is a terrific novel! Read it! Why? First of all, there's the novel's generosity. Kiran Desai's *The Inheritance of Loss* spans continents, generations, cultures, religions, and races. Like Desai's acclaimed first novel, *Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard*, its primary setting is India, in this case the remote province of Kalimpong during the mid-1980s.

— Ann Harleman, *Boston Globe*

(By Tom Mackenzie)

Local shelf

Carry Me Down

By MJ Hyland
Canongate Books Ltd, 256 pages, 150 yuan

John Egan lives with his mother, father, and grandmother in a fragile household. *The Guinness Book of World Records* is his favorite book and he wants, someday, to visit Niagara Falls with his mother. But John has an unusual talent: he knows when people are lying and he is determined to become a world-famous lie detector — at almost any cost.

This novel, by the author of *How the Light Gets In*, is about John Egan's obsessive and dangerous desire to see the truth.

Excuse Me, Your Life is Waiting

By Lynn Grabhorn
Hampton Roads Publishing Company, 240 pages, 160 yuan

The law of attraction puts whatever you think about into your life, so you have to be careful about what you put in your mind and how you feel about it. The distinction between negative wants (I don't want to be poor) and positive wants (I want enough money to do what I want in life) is difficult for most people, but the author makes it abundantly clear with great personal examples and a lot of enthusiasm. We can choose how we frame things and thus control the vibrations we send out to the world. Her strong emotions will be too much for some listeners, but she's genuine, and the ideas will grab you no matter how you feel about the reading.

A Crack in the Edge of the World: America and the Great California Earthquake of 1906

By Simon Winchester
Viking, 256 pages, 165 yuan

A burgeoning new city is built on the dreams of the American gold rush. In 1906 the dreams of the city came crashing down.

For the inhabitants of the western part of North America the effect was immediate and horrifying: a massive earthquake roared through the city of San Francisco. Simon Winchester's breathtaking new book follows the story of the city that was built on the dreams of the American gold rush and was destroyed in less than a minute. Threaded through the extraordinary tales of human endeavor, the stories of the scientists who made sense of an uncharted land, the men and women who settled and transformed the American west, the appalling scale of the destruction and of the shameful insurance scams, is the elemental story of the earth itself.

Available:
Beijing Bookworm
Where: Building 4, Nan Sanlitun Road, Chaoyang
Tel: 6586 9507
(By Han Manman)

Mian – Beijing's best noodle restaurants



Spicy seafood soup noodles

Photo provided by The Noodle Loft

Fashionable noodles

By Chu Meng

The Noodle Loft is a fashionable noodle place. The restaurant features flour cuisine from Shanxi.

I plumped for One Strand Green Noodles made from spinach juice. Traditionally, Chinese eat this kind of noodle for their birthday dinner

because the single strand signifies long life. I chose the tried and tested egg and tomato combination to accompany my noodles.

The chef recommended three other kinds of noodles: Shanxi Pasta flakes, pinched off a strip of dough and then flung into the pot;

Fried Oat Noodle Shaped Like Fish, cut off a hunk of dough with scissors; and Hand-Shaved Noodles, where the chef holds a block of dough on one shoulder and shaves with the opposite hand. The sauces are fried pork, beef in sauce and pork in sauce.

I also ordered several dishes to sample. The hot and sour cabbage was served with dried red chilies and Sichuan peppercorns. The jellyfish was also excellent, served cold and dressed with a soy-vinegar sauce. The cucumber slices added a refreshing touch.

Noodle Loft

Branch 1: No.20 Dawang Road, Chaoyang.
Branch 2: No.3 Heping Xijie, Chaoyang
Open: 11am-2:30pm; 5:30pm-10:30pm
Cost: 80-100 yuan/person



Youmian rolls steamed with herbs

Youmian: food from Inner Mongolia

By Jackie Zhang

Coming from Inner Mongolia, Youmian has become increasingly popular in Beijing. Many restaurants that serve northwestern-style Chinese dishes have started serving up Youmian based dishes as well.

Youmian is a type of flour made

from oats. There are different ways of cooking Youmian and it can be made into noodles and steamed bread. It can also be steamed, boiled or stir-fried.

Xibei Youmian Village is one of the most popular.

Here, Youmian is steamed and

served with different dipping sauces, like stir-fried tomato and spicy jam.

The restaurant also has an array of traditional northwestern style food like barbecued mutton, mixed vegetables and mixed vermicelli served with different sauces.

Xibei Youmian Village

Where: No.10, Liuliqiaobei, Xuanwu
Open: 11:30am-2pm; 5:30pm-9pm
Tel: 6331 6888, 6331 7888
Photo provided by Xibei Youmian Village

Yanji Restaurant: the perfect spot for icy noodles

By Gan Tian

Anyone interested in Korean culture should know something about Yanji. It is a city located in Jilin province, very close to the border with North Korea, so the cold noodles in Yanji are as genu-

ine as you're going to get in China.

Built in 1943, Yanji Restaurant – which takes its name from the city – is the oldest Korean-style restaurant in Beijing and a favorite among cold noodle connoisseurs.

At this eatery cold noodles are

served in big, cold bowls with an assortment of egg, vegetables, meat and ice – an eye-catching combination. The noodles are soft and deliciously cool.

I can also recommend the spicy meat, spicy beef and the

stone-pot rice. But the cold noodles are really the dishes.

Yanji Lengmian

Xisi Center: No.181 Xisibei Dajie, Xicheng
Tel: 6615 3293, 6616 2534
Cost: 20 yuan per person

A bowl of Yanji Lengmian
Photo by Gan Tian

A simple but hot and delicious bowl of beef noodles

Traditional beef noodles

By Jackie Zhang

Beef noodles are traditionally eaten in northwest China. In Lanzhou, the capital city of Gansu Province, beef noodles are extremely popular.

Su's Beef Noodle Restaurant is

a chain restaurant with outlets all over China.

Beef noodles are delicious and inexpensive. At Su's, one big bowl of noodles will set you back six yuan and a smaller bowl five yuan. The noodles are hand-made from

fine flour.

The noodles are served with beef, caraway and garlic leaves, which add flavor.

You can also order set menus that include a bowl of noodles and other snacks. There are three kinds

of set menus that range from 15 yuan to 25 yuan each.

Su's Beef Noodle Restaurants

Where: 24, Beiwaxili, Haidian
Open: 10am-9:30pm
Tel: 6846 2537
Photo by Jackie Zhang

A Korean miracle made of flour

By Chu Meng

The Korean community in the Wudaokou area is served by a number of excellent and authentic Korean eateries, with Czen Asian Noodle Bar and Tous Les Jours Bakery among them.

Czen Asian Noodle Bar serves up several innovative noodles. I tried a three-in-one noodle plate of stir-fried green tea noodles with beef; cold coffee noodles with cheese and shrimp, and pumpkin noodles with green peas.

The best is its focus on using healthy ingredients. Green tea, coffee, pumpkin, carrot, seaweed, black bean, and herb and garlic noodles are available and provide different nutrients without too much fat.

Cold coffee noodles with green peas and salad
Photo by Czen Asian Noodle Bar

Free makeup bag

Spend over 400 yuan on the cosmetic range Make Up Forever (Chen Xi Bai Huo, 1 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang) and get a free makeup bag until October 31. For details, call 6505 6118.



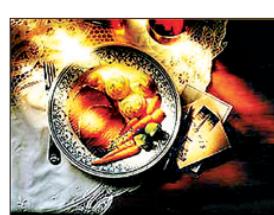
Buy one get one free

Buy a bowl of Swedish meatballs at IKEA (Dongsihuan, Siyanqiao, Chaoyang) and get another bowl free until October 31. For details, call 6475 2345.



Buffet dinner

French and Russian buffet dinner only 58-88 yuan per person at Wei Lan western food restaurant (27 Gulouwai Dajie, Wanwang building). Free salad bar, Monday-Friday 6pm-9pm, Saturday-Sunday, all day long. For details, call 8413 5540.



88 yuan voucher

Spend over 100 yuan at Wu Mart Plaza (18 Beitaipingzhuang, Haidian) and get an 88 yuan discount voucher until October 31. For details, call 6209 1516.



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80% off

G2000 is offering a discount of 80% off in Chenxi Department Store in Oriental Plaza (Dong Fang Guang Chang, Wangfujing, Dongcheng). For details, call 8518 4488.



30% off

Eat at Ning Meng Ye Zi Thai hot pot restaurant (15 Xiaoyunlu, Chaoyang) and get 30% off until October 22. For details, call 6462 5505.



20 yuan voucher

Spend over 100 yuan at Huang Ji Huang restaurant (5 An Yuan Anhuibeili, Chaoyang) and get a 20 yuan discount voucher until October 31. For details, call 6489 8620.



10% off cosmetics

Buy VZI cosmetics at any Beijing outlet and get 10% off until October 31. For details, call 6333 1616.



50% off hotpot

Eat at Xiapu Xiapu hot pot restaurant (Xin Zhongguan Shopping mall, Haidian) and get 50% off (excluding drinks) until October 22. For details, call 6126 7492.



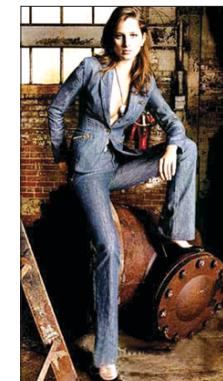
50% off



All clothes at Zi Yun Xie (25 Xinjiekouwai Dajie, Xicheng) are discounted by 50% until October 22. For details, call 13810938952.

Designer discounts

Costume Company Mariano is holding a sale at 798 Art district (2 Jiuxianqiaolu, Chaoyang) with discounts on top brands like Armani, Dior and Gucci. For details, call 6437 6405.



(By Terence Lu)

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Creative carnival, smart iMart

By He Jianwei

Beijing will hold a creative 'iMart' festival this weekend at the Creative Zone in the Culture-Subject Plaza, Zhongguancun.

The 'iMart' concept originated from Wang Yiyang's book *Fashion Market* – interviews with 16 London artists/designers from the fashion market. Wang is a freelance graphic designer living in London. The book was a bestseller and after its publication, the idea of a creative market has become increasingly popular in China.

City Pictorial has planned a series of 'iMart' activities that will run from June to December across China. The first was held in Guangzhou last Saturday with Beijing the second stop.

Below we interview some of the young creative designers who will attend Beijing's 'iMart' carnival to find out more about the trend.



Different kinds of Chenxingfu

Photos provided by Zhang Xiaoyin

Chenxingfu

Chenxingfu is a brand of dolls (including a cat series, a rabbit series and a baby series) made out of cotton or jean material.

"The name Chenxingfu means toys that give our customers happiness," said the company's soppy founder Zhang Xiaoyin. "Chen is a verb in Chinese which means to carry or express. It is also a traditional verb, which tallies with the style of our products. Xingfu means happiness in English."

The first series that Chenxingfu launched was the cat series. "The cat is not one of the animals on the Chinese Birth year but most Chinese love cats. We add some Chinese elements to the design of our cats, like the flower patterns on the cloth," said Zhang.

The biggest selling item from the cat series is the pussy wearing traditional Chinese flower patterned clothes. "It's the symbol of Chenxingfu because of the traditional patterns," said Zhang.

Zhang quit his job working at a company in Dalian and came to Beijing in 2004. "It was a tough time when I first arrived in Beijing. I got a job washing glasses in a Houhai bar. My first toy – a cotton cat – was made during that time," he said.

Zhang initially called his workshop the 'Happy Toy Workshop' before registering the name 'Chenxingfu'.

"When we were discussing the name of our toy company, someone suggested 'Zhangxingfu' because my family name is Zhang. But I thought it might sound a bit stupid so opted for 'Chenxingfu' instead."

Zhang has stalls at the Mi-Di Festival and Beijing Pop Music Festival. He plans to open a store later this year at the 3.3 fashion mall in Sanlitun.



CHNVAN



Different kinds of CHNVAN Photos provided by Wang Fang



CHNVAN is a design group from Xi'an that formed in March. CHNVAN, 'Chiwanshe' in Chinese, contains a profound meaning, as 'Chi' means red symbolizing creation, 'Wan' means all members working together, symbolizing a group of new and vigorous visual artists, and 'She' means society.

A typical cartoon figure made by CHNVAN has the name, 'DOO'. And the wacky guys at CHNVAN have given the DOO a sad story. "DOO was a runaway when he was a kid because he always got low grades at school and was laughed at by other students. He quit school when he failed his exams. As a result, he became a pot smoking drifter," said Wang.

The design of DOO is based on the design of a traditional Chinese doll with hair worn in buns. The traditional Chinese doll is a mixture of human being and animal totem in Chinese folklore. The dolls with different figures have different meanings. For instance, some dolls symbolize making money, while others symbolize good health.

"People tend to be very fond of these figures because they can relate to DOO, many have had similar experiences. In my view, DOO is a reflection of our reality and it can symbolize a desire to complain about all the contradictions in our society," said Wang.

Where: No. 66 Beisihuanxilu, Creative Zone of Culture-Subject Plaza in Zhongguancun
When: 1:30pm-8:30pm, October 21, 22

From the organizers:

'iMart' is a platform open to young creative designers. The aim of iMart is to promote domestic creativity. "We provide an opportunity for young designers not only to exhibit their work but also to trade their work, so we have the slogan

'Good Idea, Good Pay,'" said Hu Chuanjian, the CEO of creativecn.com and one of the organizers of the iMart carnival.

As well as stalls for artists and designers, rock and pop bands will perform at the carnival. *City Pictorial* and Asian Lomography will also launch a Lomo competition at the event.

Leeka

Li Peng is a web and photo designer.

Li Peng named her doll 'Leeka'. Leeka was born in November 2005. 'Lee' means shelter, and 'ka' means spirit and soul. "Leeka is the friend of human beings, in other words, the doll is its owner's protector," said Li.

"Leeka has a big family. The older ones will have deeper color and more ornaments, but they have a common feature that they are all beauty-lovers," Li added.

"I produced a pair of dolls for my friend's birthday. I called them Lala and Mino, which belong to the Leeka series. I was wondering if I could have a doll that was designed and made by myself. It didn't come true until my friend's birthday. I decided to make a doll, so I cut out my T-shirt and made



a pair of dolls. I gave them to my friend and she loved them. I've been making the Leeka series ever since," said Li.

"I like to talk with my dolls and tell them all my problems," said a rather lonely Li. "They are good listeners and are good at keeping secrets."



Different kinds of Leeka
Photos provided by Li Peng

iMart

Where: No. 66 Beisihuanxilu, Creative Zone of Culture-Subject Plaza in Zhongguancun
When: 1:30pm-8:30pm, October 21, 22



By Gan Tian

Halloween. The one day of the year when, legend has it, the dead can rise from their slumber to harangue the living for chocs and sweeties. If I was 'the dead', I'd think about driving a Ferrari, or spending an evening with a supermodel, but I suppose one night doesn't provide a lot of time for planning, so running around begging strangers is the best they can manage. Ho hum. For the rest of us, the whole thing is a great excuse to get really drunk, which can't be a bad thing.

HALLOWEEN, LET'S SCREAM!



Scary skulls



Halloween pet dress



Pumpkin decoration



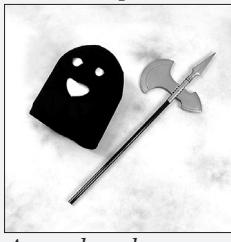
Animal toy



Arrow



Halloween spider cake



Axe and mask

PUMPKIN DECORATION

Pumpkins were traditionally carved into 'Jack-O-Lanterns' to ward off evil spirits. It's also pretty gratifying taking a kitchen knife to the orange lump. I mean the pumpkin of course. Not Dale Winton.

Available: North Exit, 77th Underground Shopping Mall, Xidan, Xicheng

Price: 40-80 yuan each

PET'S HALLOWEEN DRESS

Look at the little doggy – so cute, dressed up as Satan. Of course, try to put any of this stuff on your own pooch and he'll fling it off in seconds and tear holes in it. Mean spirited bastard.

Available: Pet Shop, No. 19 Minwang C, Hepingli Dongjie, Dongcheng

Price: 100-200 yuan on average

ARROW

Hey look at that guy with an arrow in his head! How come he isn't dead? Because it's an amusing novelty arrow. Perfect for enjoying the Halloween 'knight' life. Bwa-Ha-Ha! [simulated evil laugh].

Available: No. A45 77th Underground Shopping Mall, Xidan, Xicheng

Price: 24 yuan

ANIMAL TOY

What does this have to do with Halloween? God knows. I suppose you could stick some voodoo pins in it, and comfort yourself with the thought that somewhere, a giraffe is in pain because of you.

Available: Fifth Floor, B44, Huawei Shopping Center, Xidan, Xicheng

Price: 39 yuan

AXE AND MASK

If you have been planning to kill someone with a plastic axe, this is your moment. The mask means your identity is hidden. And when the police check the shops for anyone who bought axes and masks, they'll have to trawl a list of several hundred. The one fly in the ointment is how many times do you have to club someone with a plastic axe to make them die? A lot, I bet.

Available: No. A29, 77th Underground Shopping Mall, Xidan, Xicheng

Price: 46 yuan in total

SKULLS

Skulls are scary. Probably because they remind us of being dead. Or of not being alive. No one actually remembers not being alive, but as lots of people are scared of it, it probably isn't very nice. You may want to make a note of this.

Available: North Exit, 77th Underground Shopping Mall, Xidan, Xicheng

Price: 299 yuan

WIZARD'S HAT

Many ancient terms associated with magic are actually interchangeable with those for writing – like 'spell'. All those years ago, those who could read and write were seen as mystical and powerful. If you're one who still looks up to those who

have a basic education, wear this pointy hat with pride. Or one very like it. With a big letter 'D' on.

Available: No. A29, 77th Underground Shopping Mall, Xidan, Xicheng

Price: 45 yuan

CANDIES

Make sure you have plenty of sweet things to appease the begging spirits who may come knocking. Or at least to feed your party guests. If there aren't enough sweet little bon-bons, the ghosts might snatch your ghoulies instead.

Available: Sixth Floor, Shuang'an Shopping Center, Zhongguancun, Haidian

Price: nine yuan

HALLOWEEN SPIDER CAKE

Spider's legs. Ugly on a spider, unpleasant on a woman, great on a cake. These ones are made of pure dark chocolate.

Available: Jinyue Cake, Entrance to Dongwangzhuang, opposite to Beijing Forestry University, Shuangqingshan Road, Haidian

Price: 229 yuan

MASK

Left your imagination in your other trousers this year? No problem. Get an ugly mask. Everyone will be like, "Wow. You bought a mask. You are the life and soul of the party."

Available: North Exit, 77th Underground Shopping Mall, Xidan, Xicheng

Price: 49 yuan



Sweets galore

Do it yourself Halloween make-up:

Short of pig's blood this year? Don't worry...

What you need:
Two tablespoons of soft shortening flour

Four tablespoons of cornstarch

Food coloring

Step One: Mix the flour and cornstarch. Separate the recipe into different cups, add food coloring.

Step Two: Wash your face and any area that you will be applying makeup to and then dry thoroughly.

Step Three: Apply a thin coat of cold cream to the entire face.

Step Four: Using a cotton ball, gently pat cornstarch over cold cream. Keep your eyes closed.

Step Five: Apply make up with fingers tips.

By David Drakeford

The old adage 'you are what you eat' gives a hint that in the west we consider a healthy diet to be essential for a good lifestyle and avoiding illness. Traditional Chinese medicine also includes food cures for preventative and corrective measures against sickness as one of its four main tenets (the other three being acupuncture, herbal medicine and massage). Every family, be they Chinese or western, have their own homespun cures which they guarantee will have you at your best in no time. This week we look at some common ailments and those tried and trusted remedies which have been proven to have genuine benefit.

Home remedies

Insomnia

Wisdom from the west

Camomile tea before bedtime is a well-known and pleasant way to doze off more easily. Another herb, perhaps more effective, is valerian root which is better taken in tablet form because of its bad smell. Worth mentioning here is melatonin. This is actually a hormone that your body produces when it senses it is time to go to sleep. For example, the sky getting darker triggers the natural release of melatonin which relaxes your body and makes your eyelids feel heavy. Melatonin is available without prescription in Beijing and, although still controversial and thus best not taken every day, is a good way to overcome jetlag or regulate your sleeping patterns.

Chinese thought

According to Chinese medicine, sleep disorders are caused by imbalance in the organs. This can be because of impeded flow of blood or 'qi' in the heart, liver or kidney. It may be worth trying an individually prescribed dose of Chinese herbal medicine or acupuncture to deal with what can be a significant problem for some people. Also avoiding Chinese food that contains MSG may help some as this is a stimulating ingredient that can keep you awake.

Diarrhea

Wisdom from the west

Mild diarrhea is best left to run its course but if it is prolonged or inconvenient then pharmacies in Beijing will have a good stock of modern western medicine. They will probably recommend one powder or pill to lower the regularity of your bathroom visits, which should be quite effective, and another product to cure the problem. The staff at a Chinese pharmacy will not be embarrassed to discuss this problem with a foreigner but if you don't want to go as far as medicine then grated apple has been used throughout Europe for centuries.

Chinese thought

Although not native to China, the guava plant has long been used to treat diarrhea and other digestive complaints. It has antibacterial properties and can relax the intestinal muscles and reduce bowel contractions. A chemical, quercetin, has a morphine-like effect in relieving acute diarrhea which is reminiscent of another old fashioned cure – opium. Whilst you may not find that at your local Jenny Lou's, guava juice is available there.



Colds

Wisdom from the west

Western thought holds that there is no cure for the common cold. However vitamins, in pill form or taken via fresh orange or lemon juice, is a good idea to boost your immunity as soon as possible when you notice a cold coming on. Plenty of rest is always advisable to speed recovery.

Chinese thought

Perhaps the most commonly used cure for colds and mild fevers in China is some kind of ginger soup. Crushed ginger and rock sugar boiled for half an hour and then drunk three times a day is one method. Another surprisingly popular suggestion is to replace the sugar with cola but still boil up the whole concoction.

Sore throat

Wisdom from the west

The old classic is lemon and honey with hot water which does soothe, though it perhaps does not cure the problem. This is probably due to the heat of the drink infusing the membranes, the stimulation of saliva by the lemon and the honey acting as an antimicrobial, which helps the immune system fight infection. To kill the bacteria that are causing the problem, try gargling saltwater or apple cider vinegar – unpleasant but recommended if you are determined to beat the pain.

Chinese thought

There are a large number of herbs and medicines available in China to deal with this problem, or at least soothe the throat, honeysuckle being a very common one. For a sore throat caused by a cold or excessive internal heat try the home remedy of boiling pear pieces with rock sugar.

Burns

Wisdom from the west

A popular old wives' tale states that putting butter on a burn will ease the pain but in fact this can easily lead to bacterial growth and infection. Better is to run cool water over the burn as soon as possible and then wrap it with a non-adhesive bandage and keep it clean and dry. Try not to break any blister which forms.

Chinese thought

Aloe vera is a popular food in China, eaten in puddings and yogurts but it also has a very effective cooling effect on minor burns and even sunburn. Aloe gel is available in pharmacies but easier still is to keep a plant on your balcony. You can snap off a leaf and squeeze the cooling gel straight onto the burn.

Xinjiang, China's final frontier

The Muslim-influenced culture of the Uyghur people



Kashgar Silhouette

Photos by Tom Carter

By Tom Carter

"He's from Pakistan."

"No, no! He's Japanese."

A lively group of Uyghurs orbiting around me at the Hotan marketplace in southern Xinjiang were vociferously debating the nationality of the 196cm foreigner standing before them. I am in fact a first-generation American of a hybrid Scandinavian-Mediterranean-Hispanic lineage, my dark brown features and unkempt travel whiskers often causing confusion amongst Asians who can't quite place my nationality. Ironically, Han Chinese often mistook me for a Wei-wuerzu – someone from Xinjiang.

If there is one province unlike any other in the People's Republic, it would have to be Xinjiang. Categorically different from the rest of the country in every conceivable way, the Muslim-dominated Xinjiang in the distant northwest is at once China's most intriguing and intimidating travel destination.

Xinjiang Autonomous Region is China's largest, sharing international borders with Pakistan, Afghanistan and central Asian countries. This geographical proximity resultingly accounts for over half of China's 12 million Muslims, perhaps Xinjiang's most obvious characteristic.

Muslim followers of Islam, the second largest religion in the world, are a devout people who believe in the oneness of God, called Allah in Arabic, as opposed to the Christian doctrine of a holy trinity. Muslim adherents can be seen throughout Xinjiang carrying venerated copies of the Qur'an (Islamic holy scripture) and faithfully dashing off to the mosque five times a day for a congregational series of Mecca-facing prostrations and prayer.

Xinjiang's predominant nationality is the Uyghur, a vibrant and outgoing culture of Central Asian descent whom this writer affectionately likes to refer to as *The Desert People*. The Turkic-speaking Uyghurs traditionally attire themselves in simple, loose-fitting robes to accommodate the harsh climate, with the men wearing either plain white or brilliantly embroidered dopi skull caps and the women veiling themselves in a hijab headscarf. A shaved head and long beard further distinguishes the Uyghur men while the ladies take pride and pleasure in dyeing their hands red with henna.

Geographically, Xinjiang offers starkly different topography and climate throughout the vast region, ranging from the cool alpine mountains of the northern Altay region to the arid southern sands of the Taklamakan, the second largest desert in the world. And while Urumqi, Xinjiang's capital, is a gleaming northern metropolis of skyscrapers and department stores, the remote cities bordering the southwestern Tarim Basin, including the famed Silk Road oasis of Kashgar, are known for their more traditional way of Muslim life.

Assalam alaikum! (Peace be unto you!)

Tom Carter, a freelance writer and photographer from San Francisco, has lived in PR China the past two and a half years. He is currently backpacking through all 32 Chinese provinces.



Muslim princess



Dutar



Facing Mecca



Muffin man

Attractions

Situated directly on the borders of Mongolia, Russia and Kazakhstan, the spectacularly sapphire-blue Hanasi Hu Lake in the mountainous region of northern Xinjiang is a popular tour group destination. To the south, the massive Sunday markets in Kashgar and Hotan are not to be missed, though the latter is arguably more authentic.

Transportation

- From Beijing to Urumqi, 10 flights daily between 8am and 9pm (four hours, 2,410 yuan)

- To Hanasi Hu, a group tour arranged by any Urumqi travel agency is often suggested for its feasibility, however a majority of time is spent in transit (four days, 500 yuan, including accommodations and entrance tickets)

- To Kashgar, overnight trains leaving daily from Urumqi at 1pm and 5pm are the most convenient and comfortable way to travel (30 hours, 170 yuan).

- From Kashgar to Hetian, busses depart from Renmin Donglu almost hourly between 7am and 6pm (eight hours, 50 yuan).

Accommodation

Xinjiang disappointingly offers very little as far as budget accommodations or youth hostels, and due to immigration from neighboring nations, smaller boardinghouses are strict to only allow Chinese nationals. In Kashgar, the Uyghur-run Noor Bish Hotel near the famous Id Kah Mosque is a backpacker's favorite (30 yuan for a dorm bed).

Regional cuisine

If China is famous for its cuisine, then Xinjiang is responsible for half its success. Heavily seasoned lamb kebab (*yan-grou chuan*), spicy lamian noodles topped with peppers, tomatoes and garlic, deep-fried fresh fish (how did they get fish in the desert?), goat's head soup, golden pilaf rice and fragrant peaches and watermelon, all washed down with refreshing cinnamon tea. There may not be as much bread (*nang*) in the whole of China as in Kashgar, with lightly seasoned loaves and sesame seed bagels being pulled hot out the oven by the minute.

Cambridge, USA: a center of learning with a poet's heart

By Shida Zhu

The old town of Cambridge, Massachusetts, has always been an attraction for those who happen to pass through the greater Boston metropolitan area, as it is the seat of America's oldest university — Harvard. The old university has, since 1636, been staffed by professors Longfellow, Emerson, William James and Santayana and produced such terrific students as Franklin Delano Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy and Norman Mailer.

You may start your travel at the center of Cambridge, the Harvard Square, where a cake-like kiosk stands. The square is lined with a Co-op, flower shops, beer houses, cafes and boutiques and is the liveliest and busiest meeting place in town. Artists converge here. Every so often, you may find violinists, flutists or drummers showing off their skill in one of the porches or the corridors of the subway, with the coins that are their recompense for their city soundtrack glittering at their feet.

Massachusetts Avenue comes into the square from the east and makes a sharp northward turn, forming the southern and western sides of **Harvard Yard** studded with elms and lawns and Harvard University's oldest buildings. To the left of the square is the Co-op, a large cooperative department store that boasts a wealth of souvenirs, including T-shirts and glazed chinaware and book shops where you may get the latest publications from around the world.

You cross over to the Co-op and make a right turn to stroll along the side of the Massachusetts Avenue. A long building with a mansard roof comes into view. It is the **College House** erected between 1845 and 1859. It used to be the living quarters for Harvard students with shops on the ground floor. At the far corner of Church Street is the Gothic Revival style **First Church Unitarian**. In addition to its religious function, the church is often a meeting place for forums and discussions for Cambridge's citizens. On the left is the **Old Burying Ground**, also known as the God's Acre. Among those interred in the ground are most of the early settlers of the town, the first ministers who served them, the early presidents of Harvard and some of the leading figures of colonial Massachusetts. Those who wish to visit the **Burying Ground** should apply to the sexton of Christ Church who will open the gate beside the church.

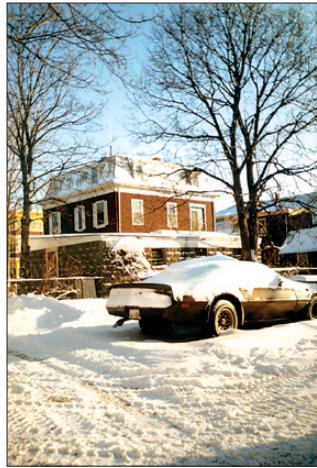
Walking along, you will enter the southern entrance of the **Cambridge Common** and pass through the **George Washington Memorial Gateway**, a monument of pink Milford granite. A medallion portrait of George Washington carries an inscription that indicates that Washington took command of the American Army on this spot, marking a new page of the new nation. In the center of the clearing of the common stands



Harvard Square



A coffee shop on Harvard Square



Cambridge in snow



Longfellow's House

Where to stay: The Charles Hotel not far away from the Harvard Square. Also Harvard Inn facing the Massachusetts Avenue is a nice choice.

How to get there: You may take the inbound Wonderland-Bowdoin line at the Logan Airport to State Street, change to the Oak Grove-Forest Hills line for a transfer at Washington Street in downtown Boston and then take the outbound Red Line, getting off at the Harvard Square.

It is a great pleasure to walk from Boston across the Charles River to Cambridge by a number of bridges, depending on where you are. From the Weeks Memorial Bridge, turn left and walk along the pedestrian path along the Charles River and turn right to the Boylston Street which soon reaches the center of Cambridge.

the **Soldiers' Monument** that was dedicated in 1870 with James Russell Lowell, a famous American poet of the time, reciting a poem composed for the occasion.

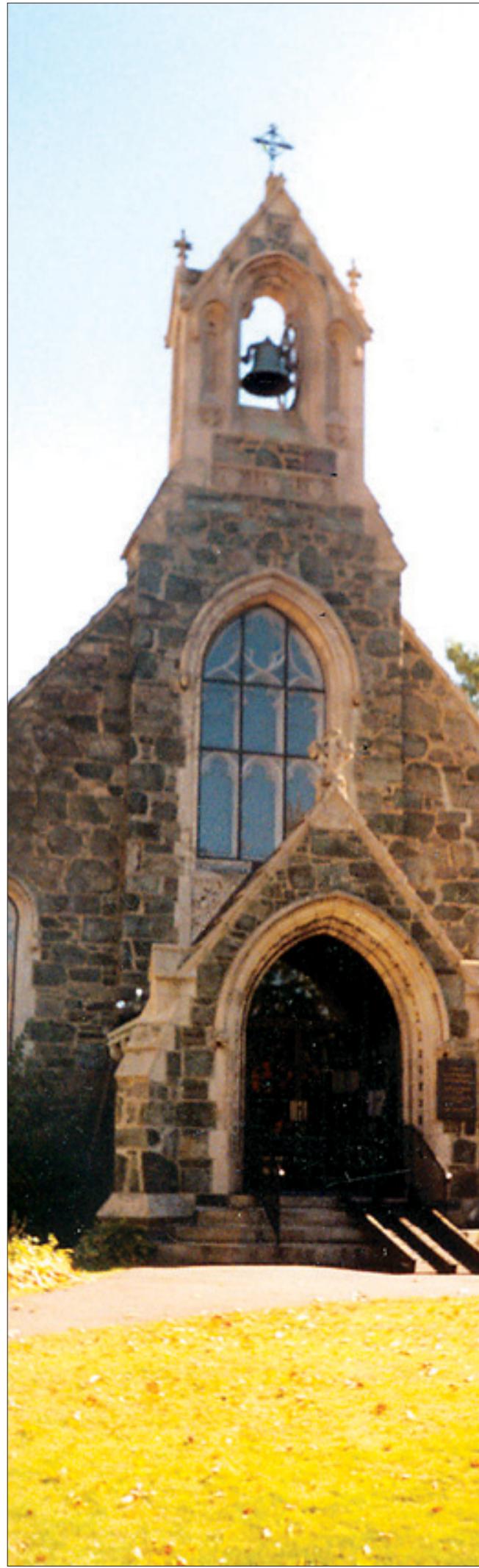
At the corner of Mason and Garden Street, you will see **Radcliffe Yard** devoted to education of women, a quiet haven in the heart of busy Cambridge. At the west end of the yard is the **Schlesinger Library** that houses a collection of books and manuscripts on the history of women in America.

You go westward from Harvard Square to **Brattle Street** where you may see a restaurant set back between an apartment house and an office building at No.54. It's a simple two-storey Federal house with a hip roof. It was originally the house of a blacksmith. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, then a professor of Modern Languages at Harvard, often passed the house on his way to the university. He immortalized the blacksmith in his poem *The Village Blacksmith*. He wrote: "Under a spreading chestnut tree/The village blacksmith stands,/The smith a mighty man is he,/With large and sinewy hands;/And the muscles of his brawny arms/Are strong as iron hands...." The chestnut tree was cut down to make way for wagons in 1876. A chair was made from the wood of the chestnut tree and the children of Cambridge presented it to Longfellow on his 72nd birthday.

Way down on the right side of Brattle Street at No.101 is a fine building with an expansive garden behind a granite and iron fence. This is the estate where the **Longfellow National Historic Site** is located. Built of wood with clapboard siding, it is a characteristic horizontal block with a symmetrical facade and a low hip roof crowned with a balustrade, above which rise two tall chimneys. The facade typifies high Georgian attempts to add difference to the familiar five-bay, two-storey elevation. The estate originally belonged to Colonel John Vassall. In the summer of 1837 Longfellow rented a suite of two rooms on the top floor, a bedroom and a sitting room. Longfellow married Frances Appleton in 1843. His father-in-law, a very wealthy man on the Beacon Hill, bought the estate and presented it to the couple as a wedding present.

Going through the garden planted with all sorts of roses and climbing the old wooden staircases, you feel something that is virtually oracular. You are reminded of verses that dispense advice about things like dealing with adversity, facing squarely disappointment and never losing confidence in life. The wise twists of verse help people to stand on their own feet even in storm and stress. In the poet's library you may hear again him laughingly reciting: "Such an old mustache as I am, is no match for you all."

In front of the mansion is a huge meadow opening that leads directly to the **Charles River**. On the meadow there is a bust of the poet who seems still to be looking at his favorite river and singing verses that inspire hope in his audience.



The Church of the Jerusalem in Cambridge

Photos by Shida Zhu

Baidu: a web company with a difference

By Han Manman

Baidu's intern selection is very strict. We do not expect less of them just because they are students. There are three unwritten rules we have for choosing interns. The first is a passion for the research industry; the second is the strong desire to succeed; the third is talent and confidence. Most interns are offered full-time jobs after their internships. At Baidu, interns have the chance to



Chen Ying currently works as an intern in the product market department and will be offered a full-time job after graduating in computing from Peking University next year.

During my one-year internship I felt frustrated, excited, surprised and, at times, enlightened. I felt that I had a very good sense of originality and spent much time doing market research on a design project. However, when I presented it in a department meeting the project was criticized by my colleagues who pointed out that it was pretty useless. The whole thing made me very frustrated but it also taught me a hell of a lot.

I made many mistakes when I started my internship. When I saw something that is very advanced, I always wanted to have a go. At meetings my colleagues would ask me why I think it's cool. I had to give them a reason for doing something. They forced me to consider whether the elements that I wanted to include in the product, however cool they were, would

actually be of any use to our users.

At Baidu there are a lot of people who have had unique life experiences. Among my colleagues, is a popular online video director, someone who organized a speed motor race at Peking University, a ninth dan black belt in Taekwondo and a secret online blogger. I was surprised when I discovered about all these people I was working alongside. I also have a 'legendary' colleague who is younger than me and graduated just two years ago but now owns his own car and house. He is our senior manager. During his internship, he had the balls to hit a table and argue with our company president. He is very clever and his success has a lot to do with our intern culture. I can't believe that kind of thing would happen in other companies.

There are two important points

a cheat at the time, I thought my originality was excellent and I could use it to earn money. But once I got involved in the industry, I realized just how childish those thoughts were.

I believed that many of the suggestions that I made in my report were valuable for the company. When I started my internship, I could see our clients' monthly feedback. I found that all the points I mentioned were on their internal website in much greater detail than mine. The client is using our product, with a user's angle; they know what our weaknesses are, which is much more valuable than anything written in a student's report. Moreover, a listed company has good staff, and most of the time they will have thought of all the points before the student. They don't want your originality, the com-

pany just wants to use the report to find out more about you.

Someone from the HR department showed me to my table on my first internship day. On the table were an array of computer components – I had to set up the computer myself. Although I majored in computers, it was the first time in my life that I'd ever had to set up a computer. With a bit of help from an old schoolmate, I finally finished it. After that, no one noticed me until our first launch. I was impressed with Baidu's 'table culture'. In the first three or four days, we had launches in different departments and I got introduced each time, which made me feel like I was indeed part of the team. The launches were very important platforms for Baidu employees to exchange ideas. Every time I went to one I learnt more and more.

Comments from Li Jian, the product manager of Chen Ying, Li Dongmin's department:

Although most students I interviewed were excellent, Cheng Ying and Dongmin stood out. We look for people who are not only talented but also those who identify with our company's culture. We had high expectations for Chen Ying and Dongmin and we were not disappointed. They worked very hard and really got involved. Dongmin is very quick and very logical. He is also mad about search engines. Chen Ying has a good understanding of our users' demands. Although she is very young, she thinks things through and is good at tackling complicated issues.



Li Ming is currently working as a product manager at Baidu. He is responsible for managing the product development process and ensuring that the product meets the needs of the users. He is also involved in the marketing and sales of the product.

Comments from Li Ming, product manager of Hou Jianbin's department: The impression I got from Jianbin is that he is very logical and hard working. And he is happy to express his opinions. He's also very good at looking at things through our customer's eyes, a very important quality. He has learnt a lot from his colleagues and has grown in maturity since being here. His performance so far shows that he has great potential.



Hou Jianbin currently works as an intern in the mp3 department and will be offered a full-time job when he gets his Master's degree in information management from Peking University next year.

I did an internship in Baidu when I was a senior. As a post-graduate, I decided to do my second internship at Baidu. From my first internship I'd got a very good impression of Baidu. It's China's number one search engine so I knew it would be a great opportunity to work there.

During the interview, I was asked if I had any expectations about the package I would receive. I said I didn't care about money I just wanted to have the chance to stay working at Baidu. My interviewer was taken by surprise. He said, "you just want to spend all day working here, you don't want anything else?" Being a bit of a

mug, I replied that I didn't care about anything else; I just wanted the experience and the chance to learn how the company operates.

My interviewer also asked me about my knowledge of search engines, so I told him both about the technology and arithmetic that I had learned at school. He told me that what I had learned at school was out of date and that if I joined Baidu, I would learn about real technology, not the stuff you learn about in textbooks. After the interview I was asked to write an analysis report when I went home. Because of the report, I got offered the internship position. The interviewer

said my report was very logical and showed a good command of methodology.

When I joined Baidu it had less than 300 employees. Now it employs thousands of people and is a listed company. Some things have changed over that time but some things have stayed the same, like flexible working hours and no dress code. At Baidu I can turn up for work whenever I want and go home early if I finish all my work.

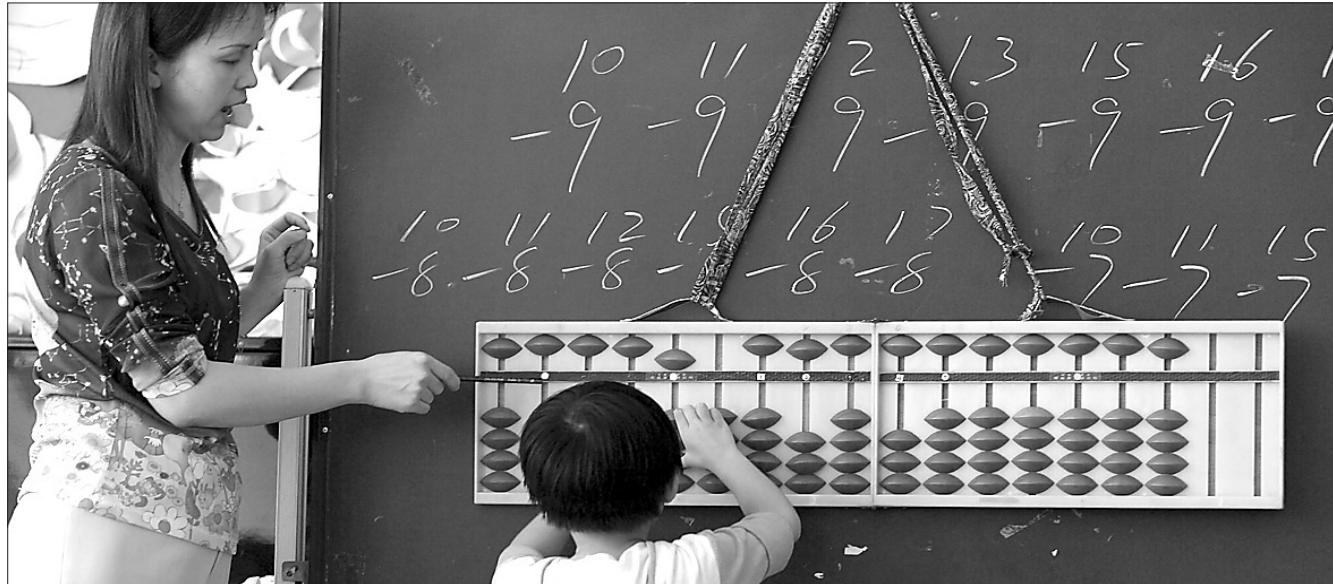
Students never realize they really don't know it. What I learned at school has some link with the search engine. I remember once Yu Jun, China's first pio-

neer who introduced the website search engine product to China, held a meeting in our department. He asked what a search engine was. In meetings like that, even if you don't say anything, you can learn a lot from other people's comments. We debated that issue for a long time. Although I was a newcomer, I wasn't afraid of expressing my opinions. One of my colleagues said I was wrong, but I didn't agree with him and we debated the issue until he convinced me that he was right. He's an expert in the industry but he showed me a lot of respect and didn't pressure me simply because I was an intern.

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This column is open to those who want to improve their English but lack foreign specialized help. We will review the English articles you send to Shirley_chen@ynet.com. Suggestions will be given on how to improve the Chinglish sentences in your articles. All interesting stories are welcomed. Please be sure the article is written in English, around 500 words in total. Please do not forget to include your name and address.

My summer internship experience



Every holidays, many University students go to work as teachers.

By Guan Lili

For quite a long time, I have held to the dream that one day I would become a teacher, no matter how hard the road may be. Luckily enough, I grasped the chance of teaching primary students English during the summer vocation, and this summer has been the season of bountiful harvest for me. Before taking the job, I really had a hard and controversial battle with myself. One side of me has the desire of showing myself and being acknowledged, while the other side recoils from challenges. Anyway, I finally win the battle and bravely face the challenges.

The first class of the first day was so impressive. For all the

preparations I made, they were futile in front of a group of naughty students. Honestly speaking, I had an aversion to children in the past, as I identified them with noise and mischief. Nevertheless, this time, I had to be benign, friendly together with tolerant. With no textbook, I led them to review the twenty-six English letters, which are the bases of English. Although I taught them one by one amiably, they did get impatient and shout at me! Frustrated and depressed, I was close to crying! However, I forced myself to calm down, devising a better way of teaching. Then, I decided to teach them English letters by singing, which proved to be fruitful and favorable. The mischievous

boys ceased talking and laughing. Instead, they listened carefully to my song and tried to imitate my pronunciation! Can you imagine what I was feeling at that moment? – Great joy, excited, uncontrollably happy! As the saying goes: a good start is half of success! I finished my first day's work with easiness and satisfaction, as well as unspeakable fatigue. Teaching for six hours is no easier than having a long trip. As soon as I got home, I fell onto bed and got a fast sleep without supper, regardless of mother's calling. I was so tired that I didn't get up the next morning until my mother waked me up.

With a happy mood and tired body, I started the second day

of working. Founding on a good base, the friendship between my dear students and me got profound day by day. After class, we even played games together – kicking a shuttlecock, playing hide and seeks... We had no feeling of restraint or estrangement, which rendered me infinite courage and satisfaction.

All in all, the practice has greatly increased my confidence and enriched my experience. I swear to myself that in the future, as long as I have enough time, I will volunteer to be a teacher to northeast China, contributing to our great motherland!

Guan Lili is a student at Beijing Jiaotong University.



Kirk Kenny replies

First of all, I want to say how great it is to hear that there still are people who want to be teachers.

From the first paragraph, it is clear that you have a particularly advanced use of diction – but there are still some basics that you need to pay attention to. The first sentence, for example, could be streamlined by making ‘dream’ into a verb: ‘I have dreamt of becoming a teacher’. In the following sentence, ‘has been’ should read ‘was’ in order to fit the past tense. I understand why you want to use the word ‘controversial’, but it’s not the right word here. We might say ‘politics’ or ‘opinions’ are controversial but not something internal. Here, a better word might be ‘divisive’. As well, don’t say, ‘has the desire . . .’, you could say, ‘wanted to show myself’.

In the second paragraph I

think ‘unforgettable’ would be a better word than ‘impressing’ or ‘impressive’, which we use to describe something wonderful or grand. Again, native English speakers tend not to use the word ‘naughty’, which I think you mean to describe ‘Tiao Pi’. A better word would be ‘misbehaved’. But your use of adjectives like ‘benign’ and ‘tolerant’ is both commendable and natural. Your word, ‘bases’ should be ‘basis’ and the phrase should read ‘which form the basis of . . .’. This probably stems from a listening mistake. Other sentences need tightening up: ‘did get impatient . . .’ should read, ‘were impatient and shouted at me’. I should also point out that your use of the word ‘ceased’, while an admirable attempt to use fresh words, would be more natural with ‘stopped’. In this

case, ‘ceased’ is too formal, too big – for example, we might say a ‘war ceased’. Your sentence reading ‘joy, excited . . . happy’ should be changed so that the words are either all adjectives or all nouns – ‘joy, excitement . . . happiness’ – this makes it feel smoother and consistent. And instead of saying, ‘got a fast sleep’, a more natural way of saying it would be ‘fell asleep quickly’.

Unlike Chinese, in English we don’t usually say we ‘have’ a happy mood, we say we’re ‘in a good mood’ or we ‘are happy’, so your next sentence should read: ‘Tired yet happy, I started . . .’. Notice how the best English is usually the most concise! In the following paragraphs, you tend to have a few more ‘awkward’ sentences, and that’s natural when you’re trying to express more

complicated ideas. For example, ‘got more profound day by day’ is pure Chinese. In this case you’d be better to say, ‘our friendship continued to grow’. And again, don’t forget that past tense: ‘helps’ should be ‘helped’, ‘is hard’ should be ‘was hard’ and so on.

In your last sentence you want to end on a strong note, but just need a few small changes. First, don’t say, ‘to northeast’, say ‘in the northeast of China’. As well, you should clarify ‘contributing’. How will you contribute? What will you contribute. It’s always good to be as specific as possible.

So, if you can pay attention to verb tense and expressing complicated ideas in a simpler, more natural fashion, I think your writing could be even better.

Kirk Kenny is an English teacher at New Channel School.

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify chinglish in public areas. If you see any chinglish signs, please take a picture and send them to Shirley_chen@ynet.com with your name and address.



Photo by Andreas Thorud

‘Peeling’ the love

By Philip Space

Give me your love, and I will make you peel at home

Congratulations should go to the person who wrote this sign. It is at once both nauseatingly soppy and amusingly muddled – surely no mean feat. Quite what the message the sign writer is trying to get across is unclear. The sentence structure is wrong and there is a spelling shocker that changes the meaning completely. There should be no comma after the word ‘love’ and there should be a full stop to finish the sentence. The verb ‘to peel’ should be used to describe the action of removing a layer, or layers, from around an object. For example, you can peel an orange or you can peel open a present. Here we assume the writer meant to say ‘I will make you feel at home’ not ‘peel at home’. So the sign should be re-written ‘Give me your love and I will make you feel at home.’



Photo by Andreas Thorud

A beautiful life

By Philip Space

Protect surroundings to beautify our life

This sign is an example of how direct translation from Chinese coupled with a horrendous spelling error will result in a near nonsensical statement. Even when the word ‘surroundings’ is correctly spelt the sign reads like an example of classic chinglish. ‘Protect surroundings to beautify our life’ sounds more like a piece of primary school poetry than a simple instruction. It should be changed to something like ‘Protect the surroundings to help preserve the environment.’



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Friday, October 20

Exhibition Yin Jun Solo Exhibition



Where: Beijing 9 Art Space,
No 62 Guanyintang Art Avenue,
Wangsiying, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10am-6pm, until
November 14
Admission: Free
Tel: 6736 7781

Zhang Hua's Sculptures

Where: Beijing Central Art
Gallery & Cultural Venue, River-
ville Square, No 1 District One,
Tianzhu, Shunyi

When: Daily 10am-10pm,
until October 27
Admission: Free
Tel: 6450 8483, 6450 8646

Movie

Beijing Bastards

This is a film without pre-

cedent in Chinese cinema: a seemingly free-form portrait of rock-generation kids in the city, its own quest for a structure mirroring their search for something to help them live. One broken relationship provides the overall frame – a rock musician looks for his girlfriend who left while pregnant, trying to decide whether to keep the baby.

Where: Cherry Lane Movies,
Inside Kent Center, 29 Liang-
maiqiao Lu, Anjialou, Chaoyang

When: 8pm, until October 21
Admission: 50 yuan
Tel: 13901134745

Outdoor

Back-Street-Beijing Walking Tour

Where: This walk will take you to the magnificent palace complex of the Shrines of Emperors of all Dynasties; Yuan-Dynasty White Dagopa, as well as nearby hutongs ending up with a visit to a pet market. The White

Dagopa Temple (*Bai Ta Si*) is over 700-years-old and was built by a famed Nepalese architect known as Arniger in 1271.

When: Meet at the Chinese Culture Club for group transportation. The walking tour is from 9:30am-2pm.

Cost: 150 yuan
Tel: 6432 9341



Saturday, October 21

Exhibition

The Property of Memory – Wei Qingji solo exhibition



Where: Highland Gallery,
Dashanzi Art District, No 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 11am-7pm,
until November 5
Admission: Free
Tel: 6437 7177

Bai Xincheng Contemporary Oil Painting Exhibition

Where: Qin Gallery, Enjoy
Paradise, 1-1E Huawei Li (North
of Beijing Curio City), Chaoyang

When: Daily 9:30am-6pm,
until October 31

Admission: Free
Tel: 8779 0461, 8779 0458

Movie

Contes Medernes – A selection of French short movies



The short movies include

Haut Pays des Neiges, Le Balayeur, Malveillons, Deux Alpinistes, L'homme aux Bras Ballants, Chéri, Viens Voir!, Mon Placard, Tous les i de Paris s'illuminent, Raoul et Jocelyne.

Where: French Culture Center, 18 Guangcui International Apartment, West Road of Workers' Stadium, Chaoyang.

When: 8pm
Admission: 10-20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627

Outdoor

Overnight excursion: Zhengding & Yujia Village

Where: Explore by coach two historical townships near Shijiazhuang city, capital of Hebei: Zhengding and Stone City. Zhengding, an important religious center is home to many

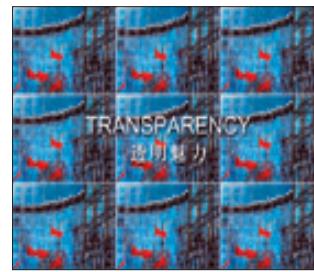
Sunday, October 22

Exhibition

Transparency – exhibition by French artist Fortunee Noel

Where: Imagine Gallery, Feijiacun Donglu, Cuigezhuang, Lai-guangying Donglu, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10am-6pm, until
December 20
Admission: Free
Tel: 6438 5747



Movie

Skyland



In the year 2251, the planet Earth has exploded into asteroid-sized fragments, all of them habitable, fortunately. What's unfortunate though, is that all these floating chunks of real estate are ruled by an evil tyrant, Oslo, his giant robot warriors and a tough-talking, bald-headed, female lieutenant. The ragtag rebels have nearly been eliminated, but now there are two new rebel fighters...

Where: French Culture Center, 18 Guangcui International Apartment, West Road of Workers' Stadium, Chaoyang.

When: 6pm, until October 25
Admission: 10-20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627

Outdoor

Making & flying Chinese kites

Learn to make traditional Chinese kites with famous kite master Mr. Zhang. Various types of kites will be on display and you will get the chance to try your hand at making a special Beijing style 'sand swallow' kite.

When: Meet at the Chinese Culture Club from 2pm to 4:30pm on Sunday.

Cost: 100 yuan
Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041



Stage in November

Music

Violin Concert – Composer Chen Gang's Violin Concerto

Who: Violinist Pan Yinlin
Where: Peking University
Concert Hall, inside Peking University, Haidian
When: 7pm, November 2
Admission: 40-80 yuan

Symphony Concert

Who: China Philharmonic Orchestra
Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, Inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm,
November 4

Admission: 50-680 yuan

String Quartet Concert

Who: Rucner Quartet from
Croatia
Where: Beijing Concert Hall,
No 1 Beixinhua Jie, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm,

November 10

Admission: 30-680 yuan

China Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra Concert Series

Who: China Philharmonic

Symphony Orchestra

Where: Beijing Concert Hall,
No 1 Beixinhua Jie, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm,

November 18

Admission: 30-680 yuan

China Broadcasting Chinese Orchestra Concert Series

Who: China Broadcasting
Chinese Orchestra

Where: Beijing Concert Hall,
No 1 Beixinhua Jie, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm,

November 19

Admission: 180-1,280 yuan

Opera and Drama

A Doll's House

Who: Chicago Oriental Art Troupe

Where: Beijing Oriental Pioneer Theater, No 8-2 Dongdan

Lin Junjie Vocal Concert

Who: Chinese pop singer Lin Junjie, also known as JJ Lin.

Where: Great Hall of the People, on the west side of Tiananmen Square, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm,

November 19

Admission: 180-1,280 yuan

Secret Love for the Peach Blossom Spring

Who: Directed by Stan Lai, performed by Wang Luoyong, Huang Lei, Yuan Quan.

Where: Capital Theater, No 22 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm, November 18-26

Admission: 50-680 yuan

(By Qiu Jiaoning)

Santiao, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm,
November 3-5

Admission: 50-180 yuan

Opera and Drama

A Doll's House

Who: Chicago Oriental Art Troupe

Where: Beijing Oriental Pioneer Theater, No 8-2 Dongdan